

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

# Maclean's

March 25, 2002 \$4.50

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**42 COVER**  
**TAKING A HEARTY PLUNGE**

A mechanical heart pump kept R.J. Brock alive long enough for a transplant. Now, there's an international race on to develop a new kind of artificial heart, a high-artificial, high-tech construct that a Canadian team of scientists thinks it can win.

## FEATURES

**24 Voices from the mayhem** The death toll continued to rise, even as the international community launched a new drive for a Middleast ceasefire. Hatreds run deep, and Christians in the Holy Land find themselves on opposite sides of the great divide.

**36 Streets of fear** Relatives and friends are still waiting to find out the truth behind the disappearances of at least 50 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In the small Vancouver Island hamlet of Quinsam, meanwhile, residents struggled to come to terms with the horrible deaths of six children.



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Behavior is exhibited only when the individual is exposed to a particular stimulus. This is the basic principle of behaviorism. The behaviorist approach to psychology is based on the idea that all behavior is learned from the environment through conditioning. This approach was developed by the psychologist B.F. Skinner, who is known for his work on operant conditioning. Skinner's theory of behaviorism is based on the idea that all behavior is learned from the environment through conditioning. This approach was developed by the psychologist B.F. Skinner, who is known for his work on operant conditioning.

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## From the Editor

### Out of Africa: the perils for a PM

The transition by which a politician comes to be seen as a minister usually happens in one of two ways. Harry Truman defined a senator as "a politician who's been dead 10 or 15 years." A quicker, more pleasure way to get there came from Harold Macmillan, the former British prime minister, who said, "When you're abroad, you're a statesman, when you're at home, you're just a politician."

In Jean Chrétien's early years as prime minister, he was charmingly blunt about his relative lack of *experience* in the rest of the world. I remember chatting with him once in late 1993 when he observed that he didn't consider foreign affairs to be an area of personal expertise, so he intended to leave that file to those who know far more. When the PM did intervene, his judgments, typically, were based on a mix of his own experiences and his essential conservatism of character. Talking about Russia in the early 1990s—a couple of years after the collapse of the Soviet Union—he said he'd known the Communists system would fall over once he paid a visit to an isolated part of Russia in the early 1980s, and loud Beethoven music played in a hotel bar. His point was that repression only works if people don't have first-hand knowledge of more liberal systems—and the exposure of Russians to that kind of music showed the system to which there was no longer a case.

Perhaps that's why Chrétien, more likely by design than accident, has made a practice of choosing foreign affairs ministers whose preferences delineate between pragmatism and principle: after the *moderate* view of Andre Ouellet came the ideological Lloyd Axworthy, followed by the bluntly pragmatic John Manley, followed, now, by Paul Graham, who can often sound like *Axworthy*.

All four brought strengths to the job—

but overall, the gains are greater than the sums. Consider the confusion among people trying to follow Canada's diplomatic position on everything from the endless mess in the Middle East to the worsening chaos in Zimbabwe to the hand-wringing that preceded our decision on whether to send our troops under American command to Afghanistan. Most of the time, we seem to go out of our way to position ourselves at odds with traditional allies in other Western countries—and, upon doing so, reverse field and regain them. That, as Ottawa Editor John Gaddis notes on page 34, is precisely what we did, in the bewilderment of most everyone, with Zimbabwe last week.

After the cabinet shuffle in January, the PM declared his intent to be more involved in foreign affairs. In some ways, that's not surprising: most leaders eventually discover the *illness* of weighing in on international events, so they should. But the downside is the reason why politicians with leadership ambitions regard the foreign affairs portfolio as only slightly better than the backbenches, despite its overall attractiveness. The more you're away, the less sure you have to stay *helter* with our own, less about domestic happenings, and keep an eye on matters. Since the PM began focusing more on the outside world in recent months, there have arguably been more public disputes within cabinet than in the eight previous years combined. For the first time since 1993, it's actually possible to wonder whether the PM fully controls his party. That's the hard lesson in this: in the end, the best ministers are also the best politicians.

*John Mackenzie*

## Maclean's

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## Gold-medal issue

What a tremendous issue it was to read an all-good-news publication. "Games to remember: A special commemorative issue" (Cover, March 11) was a breath of fresh air, and the Back Page article by Bob Levine, "Where you won't find it" an added bonus. Gone were the painful images from Afghanistan, the imprisoned Britons on that pig farm in B.C., the Middle East saga without an end. Wish you could publish an all-good-news issue every month, and had reason to spare.

George Hough, Mississauga, Ont.

The CBC did indeed show a celebration of the hockey victory in Montreal where many a Canadian flag could be seen waving amid the Montreal Canadian nationalist paraphernalia. When we play hockey, there is no English or French, there is no division among us—it's just the game on the bench.

Alan Downes, Calgary

It is unfortunate that the essay by Benoit Aubin titled "Montreal waves the flag" (Olympics, March 11) was filled with criticism that CBC "trains out" and "ignores Quebec" during coverage of the men's gold-medal hockey game. Shortly after the game, we showed the reaction from a crowd at a bar called Le Cige

auin Sports in Montreal cheering down the last 15 seconds of the game, followed later on by a scene across in downtown Montreal with celebrations that lasted almost a minute. For the record, on the day of the release we had television footage from St. John's, Nfld., Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa, Sydney, N.S., the Canadian Embassy in Washington, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and, yes, Montreal.

Art Seuling, Executive Producer, CBC Olympic Winter Games, Toronto

After witnessing Team Canada's victory in both women's and men's hockey, I can honestly say that I have never felt so proud to be a Canadian. However, after reading the Over to You column by David Shrimman ("Yup, it's your game," March 11), I felt like my older sister had just let me win at *Atsugi*. Whether Shrimman meant it or not, his article was full of condescending sentiment like "We [the U.S.] have a soft spot for justice these days" and "that wasn't American ice." It was Canadian ice." The bottom line is that the goal of U.S.A. was beaten, for and square.

Patrick A. Deslauriers, White Bear

I was delighted to see the front and back covers of the magazine glowing with the men's and women's hockey teams. They really deserve to be there. I soaked up all the stories about the Olympic champions and will keep this issue as a memento of the 2002 Games. However, I think Elva Szabo deserved to have more honour bestowed upon him, considering how much he has done for the sport of skating. Medal or no medal, leader or throw—he'll always be my hero.

Carleen Guellet, Niagara Falls, Ont.

The March 11 issue of *Maclean's* was one of the best ever. On the front and back covers were hockey players Mario Lemieux and Danielle Gayerre, two French-Canadian athletes proudly displaying the Canadian flag for the world to

## Hockey at its best

After watching Canada's Olympic hockey women play their incredible game, and watching the speed, skill and dedication of the men, and after following the NHL for some 70 years, I have decided that it was worth a time to watch a bunch of them hook, grab, interfere, slash and, of course, fight ("How sweet it is," Cover, March 11). The game of hockey should be played as it was in the Olympics—clean, swift and skilled. I hope the CBC or some other outfit produces tapes of both of the Canadian gold-medal games so people can see how hockey should be played. As for the practice of watching hockey on Saturday night, I'll pass and watch a movie.

J.C. Dorian, Portville, B.C.

I am Having lived in Quebec all my life, I notice when I pass by a French school that there is no Canadian flag to be seen—just the Quebec flag de la loy—whereas English schools display both the Maple Leaf and fleur-de-lis. This emotional gold-medal win by our men's hockey team was a legitimate excuse for francophones in Quebec to jubilantly wave the Canadian flag alongside their English friends and not be branded traitors.

Leslie Robinson, Lacombe, Que.

I am sure former U.S. ambassador Gordon Clifton is not aware that there are currently 65,000 persons on waiting lists in Toronto for public housing. Until we can adequately house the people of this nation let's not hear any talk of subsidizing pro hockey ("Let's help pro hockey," Olympics, March 11).

Alfred Thomas, Chelms, Ont.

So, hockey rates a commendable seat. And hockey without the World Wrestling Federation arena, no less. It's almost

## CORRECTION

Between 1963 and 1970, seven people were killed by the Front de libération du Québec. Due to an editing error, incorrect information appeared in "Unser? Not us, thanks!" (The Back Page, March 18, 2002).



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## The Mail

enough to make me return to the field. I mean the religion of the NHL. The real heroes were the women. None were overpaid NHL stars and all pose without the standard bloodletting. Now, it's time *Madness* gave equal time, another controversial issue, devoted to the homeless. With so many dotting the sidewalk, don't they deserve some sort of recognition if only to shame citizens and the greed-driven but we elect to govern us!

Madness Ave., Toronto, Ont.

## Curling makeover

After reading the excerpts from various newspapers about curling in Ontario is the March 4 issue, I realized how much it could learn about marketing from other Olympic sports. Carlen tried to get out of those lousy sweaters and try something more form fitting. If you do not dress in Spandex it is not a sport. Also curling is far too out of dated. Whoever scores the most points wins, can you imagine? It needs a panel of judges to score points for form, delivery and artistic interpretation. In this day and age, no sport can hope to make it in the big leagues on pure skill and athleticism. You need power, showmanship, drugs, drink and strategy.

Murray Freeman, Greenville, N.Y.

## Long time away

There must have been thousands of Second World War men shaking their heads after reading the complaints from some of our citizens about being away from home for six months ("A real challenge," Feb. 18). Try six years. Many of our servicemen went overseas in 1939 and didn't see Canada again until 1945. I didn't see my father for four years, while my wife saw her father only twice in six years. While we're, we never knew where they were.

R.A. Cameron, Inglewood, Ont.

## Competing interests

In the March 4 issue noted U.S. diplomat David James, in a piece entitled "Hacal follies," sharply criticizes former Canadian diplomat Mark Laskowski's vision of Canada's post-9/11 international role ("The Canadian advantage," Feb. 4). All I can say about James' response is, how preposterous and unreasonably American. Mid-



Calow is investigating deaths in which traces of methadone were found in the body

tary might and self-interest seem to be the twin pillars of his notion of America's international relations. Give me former foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy's "Hacal follies" any day.

For the Weekly Newlander, B.C.

## Methadone deaths

While it is true that Dr. Jon Calow, deputy chief coroner for Ontario, has reported increased deaths where methadone has been found in the deceased body it is, in fact, not clear what is really missing, who is to blame, or what needs to be done ("Too many deaths," Health, Feb. 25). One must understand that treating any disease entails risk. Medicine appreciates that and attempts to maximize risk through mandatory screening and monitoring of these physicians who prescribe methadone. And I must ask why such strong negative sentiments toward methadone? Methadone treatment is not perfect but it does work. Unchecked, the disease of addiction substantially harms both the user and society. Inadvertent deaths due to allergic reactions, medication errors or toxicity from much more common drugs far outweigh those that would be attributable to methadone.

Dr. Mark Laskowski, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto

## Investment follies

Donald Cass's commentary blames the accounting profession for "widespread accounting follies that led the Wall Street frenzy of the 1990s" ("Guns and auditors play," March 4). He fails, however, to

mention the far more widespread investment follies of that period, when price-earnings multiples (especially for high-tech stocks) skyrocketed and many investment dealers happily banked their burgeoning commissions, assuring clients that reported earnings didn't matter. Cass discounts the "stock options game" that "corporate and their auditors play." But, as noted, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, rule-maker for the accounting profession, was rebuffed by the U.S. Senate in its efforts to write the rules for this game. I hope Markewer will retain a reputable accounting academic to inform (rather than alarm) its readers in a more comprehensive and balanced manner.

R.S. Dunning, Scotch, B.C.

## Speaking up

I see *Madness* two weeks late, given that our Canadian friends here in Glen Ellyn start your magazine and read it home for a thorough reading and reaction before we ever get a shot at an issue. (I should complain! I pay nothing to read what I consider to be the best intelligently written weekly news periodical in existence.) Anyway, I see where Cynthia Komper of Danvers has criticised Markewer for being "one of the more decidedly anti-American mainstream publications in Canada" ("Taken to task," The Mail, Feb. 11). Well, she certainly doesn't speak for this lifelong Chicagoan. You understand, of course, that it's terribly unpolite for us in the States to question so much as a Dubai bump, grunt or scratch. But your guys should do and say as you like.

Jon Mueller, San Diego, Ill.



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PMA

# Overture

Edited by Shanda Deziel with Amy Cameron



## When only black will do

At the RCMP's 140th anniversary celebration in Pakenham, Ont., 50 km west of Ottawa, John Phillips and his team work diligently to fill a rather peculiar request. Their mission, quite perfect (black horses for the RCMP's world-famous Musical Ride program). "Black is a hard colour to obtain in North American horses," says Phillips, who's worked with RCMP horses for 28

years. "You can travel for 50 days and find only one."

The lack of black horses in Canada and the U.S. became apparent to the RCMP in 1935, when Commissioner Stewart Taylor Wood advised that all horses in the Musical Ride program must be black—a colour he thought best complemented the officer's red uniforms. To fit yearly quotas, the

RCMP has used an improved breeding technique using black Hovosper boodiness and stallions imported from Germany. "We do get about two per cent that pop out chestnut," says Phillips, "but the odds of getting black are pretty good."

The firm's current stallion, which cost about \$139,000 when purchased two years ago, will be used to impregnate about half of the 28 mares this summer. Horse sense

purchased from Germany and North America will be used to impregnate the remainder. In all, the department is looking for 10 near-perfect colts. A public auction is held every two years for those foals that aren't deemed black enough or don't fit the Musical Ride mould—approximately 1,150 to 1,600 pounds and 16 to 17.2 hands high. For the RCMP, black berries are serious business.

John Isakoff

## Over and Under Achievers

### Right on the button

♦ **Ben Boeddis:** Public works minister claims victory after bulk of mispredicted \$550,000 report by Quebec firm finally found. But why did Liberals spend half a mil of taxpayer money for wasted-over PM advice in the first place?

♦ **Robert LaSalle:** Hypo offense used by John McEwen producer pays off as starting field claims up in his office in first week. But you gotta

keep sweeping—forward—to maintain the momentum.

♦ **Stewart Phillips:** B.C. native leader threatens summer protests over pragmatic federal plans to cleanup land finance. Yeah, that's the same clown who forced filmmakers to drop Chicago references from a \$50-million movie.

♦ **Michael Stedfeldt:** Cdn's Ontario farmhouse, restaurant, Egozone farm, is one of world's



Last and found for Boeddis

best 10 studies, says Restaurant magazine. But he cooks what he grows, but how is he when all the fridge holds is mislaid, past-bec before-dare yogurt, and domestic beer?

♦ **John Mowley:** Deputy PM says too many Canadians find advice low Canadian dollar, not high productivity to export, some tanks on comment, but Mowley's dead right. Next day's news: Canada's productivity growth lagged U.S. in 2001.



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## Overture

### Six (or so) degrees of separation



**Orville Barber** is the director of the only Canadian film that has received a nomination for this year's Academy Awards. *Strange Invaders*, an animated short, tells the story of a children's game. Roger and Doris, who discover a mysterious child. Anyone wondering how Barber—who directed the 1950 *Doris*—now survives what the *Cat* came back—got tonight on the Canadian *Playmate* need only consider as the degree of separation Hollywood connections. In fact, almost all the *Doris* credits this year are courtesy being Barber. For example, one of his three films (the "bad boys" who inspired *Strange Invaders*) is named *Jackman* and was covered under the same title that **Peter Jackson** pitched the idea to direct (The Lord of the Rings. Unfinished by 13 direct. [www.ozmovie.com](http://www.ozmovie.com) info link)



Shiner's *The Car* came back was shown before *A Fish Called Wanda*, which starred **John Cleese**, who was a member of Monty Python along with **Terry Gilliam**, director of the 1985 film *Brazil*, starring **Robert De Niro**, who four years later appeared in *White Noise* with **Sean Penn** (best actor).



Stiller shares a first, on-screen kiss with actress **Cordell Jackson**, the bathroom lady in *The Gun in Betty Lou's Handbag* (1982), breaking **Julianne Moore**, whose second baby is due on the birthday of **Elle Fanning**, who was in *Someone Like You* (2001), with **MARISA TOME** (best supporting actress)



Baker, at the 1980 Games, accidentally tripped the late **Al Waxman**, who appeared in the 1987 comedy *Manballs* (it with former *MASH* star **Jerry Kellerman**, who is married to **Jennifer Jones**, the producer of last year's *Swedish Fish*, which starred **Halle Berry** [best actress]).



Baker was \$100 in Los Angeles in 1996, the same city and year in which rapper **Tupac Shakur** was murdered three years after starring in *Poetic Justice* with **Anast Jackson**, who shares the nickname "Duke" with hit singer **Dwight James**, who has the same birthday as **Russell Crowe** (best actor).



Barker, at the 2001 Montreal film festival. Denks he saw **Sophia Loren**, who was jailed for tax evasion in 1982—the same year a tax crime was committed by **Robert Fisk**, later pardoned by **Bill Clinton**, husband to **Hillary**, who owns an American bird-blown glass sculpture. **BOB DENKS** (bird around)



Barker named his cat **Mingo**, like the actor who played a thug in *Rightwatch*, starring Nick Nolte, who was in *Lovers* on TV with Susan Sarandon, a former Ford model like Kirsten Dunst, who in *The Virgin Suicides* kissed Josh Hartnett, of *Black Mask* (Owen trained by **NIGHTY SCOTT** [best director])



King (right) with Dornan on  
Greek island of the Odeon

## An angel in Canadian film

He was known as the godfather of Canadian film Winnipeg-born **Don Haid** worked behind the scenes as an executive producer, a scripter, a styling director, and an editor who brought a calm, disarming eye into the cutting room. The Toronto-based filmmaker who died of cancer at the age of 68 was "the most most generous, most self-deprecating, friendliest of talents," says **Piers Handling**, director of the Toronto International Film Festival. "Don was a very quiet, pleasant person, but had his fingers everywhere that counted."

Offering up his time and editing facilities, Hag helped push over 500 films to the screen, including *Public Enemy's* Cannes sensation *I've Heard the Horns Belling* (1981) and *Blackie Brown's* Oscar-winning documentary feature *Artie Shaw: There is a New Groove* (2008). "I wouldn't have entered the film if the Decors if it wasn't for Don," says Brown. "But when we won, I had to direct this picture."

A pioneer of the documentary form, *Itag* added **Beryl Fox's** *The Mills of the Gods* (1985), a semi-protest film about the Vietnam War, which aired on CBC's *This Awar Has Seven Days* (Itag produced the popular current affairs program in the mid-1980s and aired CBC's discarded parts of the show—which *CBC News* world recently aired.) "Don made many of the documentaries that inspired me to become a filmmaker," says **Rae Munn**, who worked with him on *Peep* (1992). "Everybody went to see *Peep*, the way an angel

## One for the mooks and day moes

For those in "the industry" or those who want to be in the know, Vancouver's all-around film guy **Tim**

**Budgie:** Term for a western or cowboy film. Also known as a horse picture or colort.

**Wolfe** has just published the third edition of the *A to Z Guide to Film Terms*. Check all of technical

**Grosser:** A director may ask someone to do a "grosser" or a "grossed" and I sometimes do temporary members of the film's crew.

guyan and slang expressions, the guide has become a Canadian best-seller and is read widely in schools.

**Jack Leads:** Camera team for a 50mm lens. Named after Lord's "greek" a sign that they don't have permission to use.

...and required making a more  
ambitious and complex film pro-  
posal. So for all you would-be film  
execs, or for those who are already

**Max West, Sheriff.** A shot that takes an actor from the top of the head to just below the chest.



Over to You NEIL MADELL

## When Kosovo went mad

The Bosnians have a unique saying: if you manage to *chist* death through the grace of God, that day becomes your second birthday. Feb. 3, 2000, is my second birthday.

On that night I was wearing a UN blue beret and a flak jacket, performing peacekeeping duties while attached to the UN police in the city of Mitrovica in northern Kosovo—a long way from the downtown streets of Toronto where I usually work. Mitrovica is divided by a shallow river and two bridges. The northern side is mainly Serbian with scattered pockets of Muslim Albanians and Bosnians. The south side is the exact opposite, mainly Albanian with scattered pockets of Serbs. Employing grenades and gunfire, Serbian and Albanian paramilitaries were trying to force the respective minorities to flee. Working on the north side, I was about to learn firsthand the meaning of "ethnic cleansing."

I was on patrol with Capt. Stan Nikolic, an officer of the Russian police. Just past 7 p.m., we were sent to check on some kind of shooting trouble. At a small apartment building, I saw a river of blood flowing freely down 10 steps. On top of a small landing lay an elderly, Turkish-looking man, gasping and gasping. He had been shot through the mouth, and his damaged tooth lay in a small pool of blood. We quickly drew our pistols and closed the apartment. In the next room an elderly woman greeted me with a frozen stare. She had been shot in the head and was still clutching the phone in her hand.

I returned to the elderly man. While I held his head and tried to struggle for life, at the gurgling noises came from him—noises that still haunt me. Although the French medic team tried to save him, there was nothing they could do.

When we returned to the station, my hands still shaking, we learned that riot had broken out and that the scattered pockets of Albanians on the north side were being forcibly evicted. Explosive weapons fire could be heard close by.

We formed a police line against a large, hostile Serb crowd. A young Muslim woman and several children, barefoot and dressed in pyjamas, came running towards us through the crowd, screaming for help. They were herded into a nearby UN vehicle and whisked away. Angered, the crowd began to surge. Yes, standing in front of us and speaking his best Serbian, tried to settle them. I knew we were in trouble. When our American commander, a tough Texan who had served in Vietnam, said, "Okay boys, it's time to go," we did. Yet, we still standing out there trying to keep the crowd occupied as the rest of us could



slowly withdraw to our vehicles. His calm bravery saved us all. As we picked up Yari, the medics swarmed, loading and loading our vehicles before we sped off.

As we watched from a safe distance, we heard a loud peeping scream. The crowd appeared to be in some kind of frenzy. Somebody in the vehicle whispered, "My God, I think they've caught someone!" The scream continued and we all put our hands over our ears in an attempt to escape it. We had lost control of the city and a war was going to get worse.

Ordered back to the station, we formed a defensive perimeter around the building. All of us spoke very quietly or not at all, wondering when this bloody night would end. Shortly after 10 p.m., a colleague from Quebec and I were approached by an American and a Romanian officer. Both were dressed in civilian clothes. They told us about a UN interpreter, who was trapped with her family in their apartment. The riot was getting worse and the family needed to be contacted. Taking a vehicle would have attracted too much attention—planned aside. We had to make our way through the side streets and back lanes toward her north-side apartment and pray we were not detected.

The plan was to allow 25 minutes for the American and Romanian to slip inside and bring the family down. If they didn't emerge, we Canadians were to assume the worst and get back to the station. As they entered the building, we did our best to hide in the shadows and the sound of gunfire nearby. Twenty-one minutes passed. I thought to myself, "Chris, where are those guys? What if they've been taken or shot or taken away?" Twenty-two minutes. Then I saw them. The officers had the interpreter and her family in tow, with a small child wrapped in a blanket. We quietly approached them through the back lanes. At the police station, we had to lock the family in the cells, unsure if we would be able to hold the station and defend it from the crowds. We returned to the defensive perimeter. It held, and the wild night ended around 5 a.m. I am not the only Canadian who has had a "second birthday" while serving on a peacekeeping mission. Canadians should realize that peacekeeping, or rather peacekeeping, is a tough, often bloody business. As many Canadians deploy to Afghanistan, they deserve nothing but our complete support. I always forget happy birthday too, Neil. Yari.

Capt. Neil Madell returned to Toronto last month after six months in Kosovo.

Majestic humpback whales share coastal waters with 10,000-year-old icebergs.



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This is where the giants live. One, freed from an ancient glacier, sweeping southbound through Iceberg Alley. The other, gentle leviathan of the deep, a humpback moving north. Good fortune has their paths crossing just off our shores. Close enough to leave a very large impression.

  
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# The Week That Was



## Mother found guilty of bathtub murders

**A** Texas jury found Andrea Yates, the guilty of the June 4, 2003, drowning deaths of three of her five young children. Yates, 37, who suffers from schizophrenia, admitted she killed all five youngsters in the family bathtub but pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. (The prosecution did not file charges in the deaths of the other two.) Under Texas's strict application of the insanity defense, though, Yates's lawyers had to show

she was incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong—something they clearly failed to do. But when it came time to determine Yates's punishment, the same jury appears to have taken her mental illness into account. In deciding between life in prison or death by injection, the jurors had to answer two questions: does Yates pose a danger to society, and are there mitigating circumstances to sentence her to life rather than

death? The jury sentenced her to life in prison, where she'll have to serve at least 40 years before becoming eligible for parole.

Throughout the trial, much attention also focused on Yates's husband, Russell, who compelled her to continue having children in spite of warnings that her illness would worsen, and then left her at home alone with the kids. Russell, 39, an evangelical Christian, told the court during his testimony that "he needs the breadwinner and the woman's housewife."

## More violence in India?

India's Supreme Court voted plans by a radical Hindu sect to hold a prayer meeting near the site of a 16th-century mosque destroyed by Hindus in 1950. Hoping to start off a modern round of religious blood shed, authorities clamped down; under tight security, only a few thousand people marched near the disputed area where Hindus want to construct a temple. A Feb. 27 attack by Muslims on a train carrying Hindu riders led back from the contested site left nearly 60 people dead in the western state of Gujarat, and triggered a week of reprisal killings in which 700 people died and 50,000 were left homeless.

## Tragedy in Toronto

Three days after she was reported missing, the body of a two-year-old Toronto girl was discovered in a tract of rolling wooded countryside northeast of the city. A massive search for Anna Curtis was triggered when her father, Peter Curtis, who is separated from his wife, Maureen, did not return the toddler after a scheduled visit. He had picked up Anna and her four-year-old sister, Ruby, on March 9, but the next day only the older child was returned to her maternal grandparents. Police, who had originally accused a stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline before the father led them to the other area, declined to say whether there were any signs of trauma on the toddler's body or speculate about how or where she died. Peter Curtis faces abduction and weapons charges.

## Denying the charges

Former Russian diplomat Andrei Kozlov denied being drunk when he killed Ottawa resident Catherine Macdonald in a traffic accident on Jan. 27, 2005. Kozlov, who invoked diplomatic immunity and left Canada without facing prosecution, is on trial in Moscow for involuntary manslaughter. But he did acknowledge he was too drunk for

The most westerly point in North America, Cape Spear National Historic Site.



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## The Week That Was

the accident, saying his car had hit a patch of ice and apologized to the families of Moskova and her friend, Catherine Diaz, who was seriously injured in the accident. Ottawa police photographers have shown there was no ice on the road. A doctor at the Russian embassy told police there was no such alcohol on Rykova's breath she could still smell it seven hours later. And in a letter to the Russian government, which was submitted as evidence in the embassy warning that Rykova, who refused a breathalyzer test, was drunk when her car hit Moskova.

### Killer smog

Smog can kill—that was the finding of a report by Canadian and Amer-

ican scientists published in the *American Heart Association journal Circulation*. For the first time, research carried out at the University of Toronto found that smogging smog can have an immediate adverse effect on healthy hearts and can trigger heart attacks in people who are already suffering from cardiac vascular disease.

### Bad credit?

A Vancouver lawyer launched a class-action suit against three Canadian banks over their interest-rate charges on credit cards. Acting on behalf of two B.C. women, David Rosenberg focused on the way credit card issuers calculate interest from the so-called transaction date—when all

dem or service is purchased—rather than the posting date—when the seller is paid. A restaurant, for instance, may serve a cardholder on Monday but not be paid by the bank until Wednesday. But if the cardholder owes money on his bill, he will be charged from Monday. Filing a case in the provincial Supreme Court, Rosenberg argued that in effect, interest is being charged before the debt is incurred, in violation of consumer protection laws. This he maintained means all credit card interest charges should be declared null. The three card issuers—the Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Bank of Montreal—had no comment.

## Passages

**Refined:** Having won two Olympic medals, three world and seven Canadian titles, **Kristi Stokke** is rising from competitive figure skating.



Stokke, 30, made the decision after coming in eighth at the 2002 Winter Games. The Vancouver, B.C., native made figure skating history by landing both the first quad-double and quadruple jump combinations in competition.

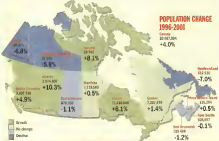
**Recovering:** Veteran Toronto Star reporter **Kathleen Kasauk**, 46, was awarded for serious leg injury in a U.S. military hospital in Germany after the car she was traveling in was hit with a hand grenade in Kitzbuehel on March 4. She was expected to return to Vancouver by the end of last week.

**Honoured:** Herb Gray was called before the House of Commons as MP for all parties paid tribute to Canada's third longest-serving politician. Gray stepped down as deputy prime minister after January's cabinet shuffle and gave up the Liberal whip when he was hit with a hand grenade in Kitzbuehel on March 4. Gray now chairs a committee overseeing South Canada's U.S. border issues as a senior water quality.

**Diving:** The 13-year reign of former GE chief **Jack Welch**, 66, and his lawyer wife **Jane**, 48, has come to an end after the disclosure of Welch's affair with **Suzanne Venkatraman**, editor of the *Harvard Business Review*. (The couple, 42, has dropped down from the US\$277,000-a-year position but will return in April as editor-at-large.) Since their pre-nuptial agreement has expired, Jane is expected to get a portion of Welch's GE shares worth US\$400 million.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF CANADA

The first data to be released from the 2001 census shows Canada's population grew by just 4.0 per cent since 1996—involving the smallest two-year growth rate in the country's history (1966-1968). Statistics Canada attributed it to a drop in growth in immigration, as already low fertility rates declined even further.



### OVER THE YEARS



### A TALE OF 10 CITIES

The largest urban areas in the country and their 1996-2001 growth rate.

City	Population (2001)	Change (1996-2001)
1. Toronto	2,574,000	+0.1%
2. Montreal	2,574,000	+0.1%
3. Vancouver	2,574,000	+0.1%
4. Ottawa	2,574,000	+0.1%
5. Winnipeg	2,574,000	+0.1%
6. Edmonton	2,574,000	+0.1%
7. Calgary	2,574,000	+0.1%
8. Quebec City	2,574,000	+0.1%
9. Halifax	2,574,000	+0.1%
10. London	2,574,000	+0.1%

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University of Waterloo graduate **Una Rattelle** is a rock star, but not in the way you might think. She's interested in how rocks are formed and how organisms came to be within different rocks. By looking at the physical and chemical activities of sedimentary basins, she hopes to unearth new information about their potential to hold and transmit water or petroleum — valuable information for the oil and gas exploration industry. Thanks to an NSERC scholarship, Rattelle will keep digging for knowledge while she begins her Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan.

This year, NSERC (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) will invest more than half a billion dollars in university-based research and training in all the natural sciences and engineering. NSERC scholarships and fellowships help close to 18,000 students want their degree for knowledge and obtain higher degrees. NSERC programs also give these students access to the best teachers and technologies, and make it easier for them to build relationships with companies and put their ideas to work.

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**Canada**

## The Week That Was

### Land claims referendum

British Columbia is going ahead with its controversial plan to hold a province-wide referendum on native land claims. Attorney General Geoff Plant said ballots will be mailed to B.C. voters in April 2, with May 15 as the cast-off date for returns. Among the issues the plebiscite will address: native self-government, tax exemptions for aboriginal lands and hunting and fishing rights.

### No early parole

Karla Homolka will not be granted early parole. In an annual review the National Parole Board decided that the former wife of sex offender Paul Bernardo merits a risk to society. Homolka was convicted of manslaughter in July 1993 in a controversial plea bargain and sentenced to 12 years in prison for her role in the killings of southern Ontario teens Kaitlin French and Lianita Marbury in return for testifying against her husband, who is currently serving a 25-year sentence with no chance of parole. Homolka first became eligible for release on July 6, 2005, after serving two thirds of her sentence. The board must review her case every year until her parole expires in 2005.

### Ruling for veterans

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a ruling that the federal government mismanaged the pensions of mentally and physically disabled war veterans. Specifically, Ottawa did not invest or pay interest on pension funds it administered for some 10,000 veterans incapable of looking after their affairs. The ruling could result in the veterans or their surviving spouses receiving as much as \$4 billion. Ottawa has 60 days to seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

### No-account Andersen

Accused of shredding truckloads of documents, bankrupted global accounting firm Andersen LLP was charged with obstruction of justice over its dealings with bankrupt energy giant Enron Corp. U.S. prosecutors said "high level Andersen management" oversee the destruction of documents. Many analysts doubt Andersen, which employs 62,000 people around the world, could survive the blow to its reputation from the Enron scandal. Dozens of major clients have dropped the company. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, a former member of the Big Five accounting firms, called off talks on a possible merger.



## Fighting terror and remembering Sept. 11

A shock rattled over the city. A 10-year-old Isabella Webb, the daughter of a police officer who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City, flicked a switch. Two massive pillars of blue light shot upward—a shimmering reminder of when the two gleaming towers of the World Trade Center once stood. It was a haunting tribute, marking six months since 3,044 people, including Isabella's father, Nathaniel, perished in Manhattan, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Earlier, at 6:48 a.m. in nearby Battery Park—the exact spot that the first hijacked jetliner smashed into the north tower—New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and hundreds of relatives of the victims stood silently as bells rang from a nearby tower. Then Bloomberg, former mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Gov. George Pataki dedicated

a shrine to the dead, a giant steel and bronze spheres weighing 22 tons that once sat atop a granite fountain in a plaza at the foot of the towers. Shimmering dots dented and crushed holes in the spheres, but it curvilinear and Pataki declared it a metaphor for the city. "It is damaged, but it is not destroyed."

In Washington, George W. Bush also remembered the victims (Not counting the 10 terrorists, 2,820 died in New York City, 184 at the Pentagon and 43 in a Maryland plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.) At a solemn ceremony at the White House, the President urged American allies to join us with the war against terrorism. "Giddy soldiers!" he said, "must also seriously the grueling threat of terror on a catastrophic scale." Bush appeared for support to the city, but was seeking a possible attack on Iraq, but

in a shrine to the dead, a giant steel and bronze spheres weighing 22 tons that once sat atop a granite fountain in a plaza at the foot of the towers. Shimmering dots dented and crushed holes in the spheres, but it curvilinear and Pataki declared it a metaphor for the city. "It is damaged, but it is not destroyed."

As that debate continued in capitals around the world, and soldiers were searching for the remnants of the 9/11 attacks in the mountains of the Gander region in western Afghanistan. Nearly 500 Canadian soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were deployed in the mountains as part of Operation Harpoon. Under Canadian command, the soldiers were searching for remnants of Al-Qaeda fighters who recently had a major 12-day-long battle in the area. During that fighting, a team of six Canadian soldiers gained down six wounded members of Al-Qaeda soldiers, the first confirmed enemy killings by Canadian troops since the Korean War. Speaking in Ottawa, Vice Admiral Greg Stathos said the troops "suppressed enemy mortar and machine gun positions with deadly accuracy."

With Al-Qaeda now off but destroyed in Afghanistan, American determination to prevent another terrorist attack was underscored by a leaked Pentagon report that called for the development of small nuclear weapons capable of destroying underground complexes containing stockpiled weapons in countries such as Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Syria and Libya. That report triggered an international uproar, but the White House downplayed the criticism, claiming the U.S. is not actually targeting specific countries but that Bush said he stands ready to use any weapon at his disposal in the fight against terrorism.



Allan Fotheringham

## The twists of history

Politics is like tea, it's all in the timing. Winston Churchill, between the two world wars, wandered the British political landscape in frustration, changing parties for the second time, divided as an undisciplined dilettante. In 1940, he seized his moment, saved the world and became the greatest man of the century. On Jan. 1, 1964, the great Canadian public had barely heard of Prime Elliott Trudeau. By June 1, he was prime minister.

Four months ago, Marsha Erb had the chance of changing the Canadian political scene to a remarkable extent. A product of New Brunswick, the lawyer Sarlandshoven, well, Alberta well and British Columbia fairly well. Few Canadians have had that experience.

Marsha Erb is tall and lean. She is somewhere in her 40s, but for some strange reason will not specify where. The first

Four months ago, Marsha Erb had the chance of changing the Canadian political scene to a remarkable extent

Erb of the family dies in Canada, Henry Erb, arrived in Springfield, N.B., as a United Empire Loyalist. She is of the sixth generation. She sat out one day for the West Coast, but ran out of money in Saskatoon, so—a resourceful gal as always—got a job in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. She was famous there because her boss would conduct interviews with prospective candidates in a glass-walled office. Any prospective candidate was rated by Marsha according to his looks and, as the interview went on with his back to Marsha's desk, she would raise cards saying three to 10. She insists that no one who rated below seven was ever hired.

In 1979, she was engaged to the future son of John Diefenbaker, coveting across the country. At one stop, at the Lakehead, she noticed a very elderly gentleman standing apart from the crowd. She approached him and learned he had come to say goodbye to Dief, remembering, as a very young boy 88 years before, hearing the bells toll for the death of another PM, Sir John A. Macdonald. After that, the veteran had to travel her, wishing she had the car for a party.

Marsha Erb has a theory: You should change your life every 25 years. She says, "The nice thing about journalism is you can find out everything. The bad thing about journalism is they don't reveal everything." After seven years at the Star-Phoenix, she went to law school, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1983 and went out to B.C., ended and was admitted to the bar there, then moved to Alberta. She has become somewhat of a legend in Calgary since.

In her law firm, a client had given Marsha a fake parcel, which she kept on her desk. When she moved her practice to a new law firm, a priest from Calgary lawyer, entering her office

and noticing this, was alarmed that the new lawyer was picking a parcel, but to the same name was placed that she obviously was in a position to take fearful action to collect any of the fresh outstanding accounts for legal services.

Best of all, Marsha Erb in 1995 signed on as general counsel for the Tsim T'ims (Suncor) Nation on its 26,000 hectares on the edge of Calgary. She was the first president of the Association of Women Lawyers in Calgary and alone was responsible for the unique Aboriginal Court of Alberta. Since 4,500 hectares on that reserve had been used, going back to 1911, the reservation provided by military forces. The Suncor people, with their expertise in land mine removal, sent two of their experts and Marsha Erb to Kosovo with the United Nations to help out with the land mine problem there.

The problem here, you see, it was Kosovo but Calgary Southwest. The riding, abandoned by Paton Murray. The riding that could Unite the Right. J. Christie, Leader Forever, has to call a by-election sometime before the end of July. The short Right cannot agree on one candidate. Erna Lavett, the centre-left candidate who was Stodwell Day's anathema, has captured the Alliance nomination. The trapped Tories, jangling well-regarded proxy regular Lee Richardson, are going with someone as one has heard of.

The Liberals, knowing the sacred Right would split the vote, had the perfect candidate who was female, an avowed Liberal, had the great credentials with the native people, had strong backing from their junior minister Anne McLellan. Marsha Erb. In two weeks she is about to publish *Six Her Land of the Right*—an intimate tale of the famous Calgary wrestling family. She spent almost a year getting to know the intricacies of the Hart family and finding out that Ralph Kluhn father was a professional wrestler. The Gns, with only two sons in Alberta, none in Calgary, could cause a sensation by seeing the son of the Prime and contributing themselves to a province in Western Canada—and killing the Alliance.

Also, on Dec. 28, The Honourable Modern Justice Marsha Colleen Erb allowed herself to be sworn in as a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, giving her oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on a family Bible 165 years old which belonged to her great-grandfather Seth Erb, while wrestling were Tina Tim Nazari Rodney Big Cows, Chief Sandford Big Phares and Argentine Dooding-horns.

Such a history. Such is the fate of some. How many judges know about wrestling?



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# VOICES FROM THE MAYHEM

Canadians in the Holy Land find themselves on opposite sides of the great divide

*The holy cause keeps rising, as it has on an almost daily basis near the central Palestinian conflict zone on Sept. 28, 2000. As if world war, over 1,500 people, about 350 Israeli and more than 1,100 Palestinians, had died in the conflict, more as the international community intensified its efforts to find a solution. The UN Security Council passed a resolution condemning terrorism and calling for an immediate ceasefire—while for the first time endorsing the idea of a Palestinian state. Meanwhile, Washington's Middle East peace envoy, Gen. Anthony Zinni, travelled to the region for his third mission in four weeks. There were new signs of hope: Israel gave freedom of movement to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who had been confined to be imprisoned in Ramallah, and called off a large-scale military operation against that city. But hatred is rising on both sides. And as Netanyahu's National Affairs Correspondent Jonathan Gathouse found during a recent Middle East visit, there are Canadians in the Holy Land who find themselves facing each other across the great divide.*

BY JONATHAN GATHOUSE  
in Israel and the Palestinian territories

There's not supposed to be any strand in a vacuum, but it's hard to know what else to call the heavily fortified room. It's as if the fear, suspicion and barely suppressed rage have sucked out all the air. If people start choking, it's only because they're holding their breath.

The Palestinian men stand outside, waiting in a long, single-file line that dissolves into the pre-dawn fog and darkness. When the Israeli border guard roars, they pass, one at a time, through the floor-to-ceiling maze, then the metal detector. They remove their coats and hats as they enter the room, placing them on the squelchy conveyor of the hand X-ray machine. Another metal detector, then the final hurdle. Each man meets his ID card in the scanner while another guard, standing behind a wall of thick, bulletproof glass, watches the face on the computer screen to the one standing before her.

Five mornings a week, the waiters and the guards at this Gaza Strip crossing perform the same security rituals—no pocket trips, no chatter. Each new Palestinian evergreen tries to banish the defiance with a gun, grenade or bomb, the Israeli add more nose wire, metal fences, concrete pillars. The lineup in the dark goes longer.

From the back of the room, Anik Hassan watches his border police colleague work, his M-16 rifle in one hand, a cigarette in the other. The first border crossing is a long way from Calgary, where the 21-year-old grew up, but after 18 months of war, chaos, suicide bombings and the endless, his eternal journey is complete. "You can see they have hate in their eyes, but that's OK because it's mutual," he says.

The night before, in the living room of his mother's small apartment in Ramallah, in the far north of the country near the Lebanese border, Hassan professed an explosion for Palestinian violence that seemed almost too sympathetic. "They don't hate their own country, they live by

our rules, they're poor because we don't give them nothing," he said. "I'd do the same thing in their shoes." Maybe changing perspectives is as simple as exchanging his baggy pants and hooded sweatshirt for flared jeans and a striped shirt. He's already proven he's a soldier in the case, blindingly so, through the photographer's sonic Elvis Costello during our long, middle-of-the-night drive north to Gaza.

We've grown used to news stories about Canadians dispensing foreign aid, brokering compromises or keeping the peace in troubled lands. They soften our vision of ourselves as helpful fools, the image we like to project to the rest of the world. But in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, things are not so predictable. Canadian Jews and Palestinians who have moved to the land they both claim as home—the land they both love—Foreign Affairs says it has approved about 3,600 Canadian citizens living in Israel, and some 250 in the West Bank and Gaza—mostly find themselves on opposite sides of a deepening divide.

Hassan's not sure how Canadian he is, any more. His mother, Mary Hassan, moved



Lining up at the Erez border crossing (left), Hassan (right) with his grandmother.

from Iran and his older brother Barry to Israel 10 years ago, so they could get to know their heritage, and the pull of the Jewish state has always been strong in his family. "We raised Anik after Anik (Anik's father)," his mother tells me. "We wanted him to grow up just like Sharone—strong and intelligent." But Hassan's grandparents still live in Cochrane, Alta., and his dad was in Calgary until a few months ago. Hassan has grown up never really finding at home in either country. "When I'm in Canada, I'm on Israeli. When I'm in Israel, I'm a Canadian," he says.

A border police corporal, he has been posted at this crossing, just north of Gaza City, for the past six months, acting as a driver and bodyguard for the detachment commander. As we get the word, a his armoured jeep with the pace set as fresh on the road-side mirror, he says, as the geography of violence, his homeland, where the mortar shells landed, the pillars where a soldier lost his leg to a Palestinian grenade, the fence that stopped the latest suicide bombing, the settlement on the nearby hilltop where two Israelis were killed and 14—seven of them children—wounded in an October attack. He talks about the first words of the spring, when he and his buddies, first on their chase (moving, huddled in the narrow aisles of Old Jerusalem as rioting Arabs hurled stones, concrete blocks, even refrigerators from the rooftops above). The friends he left behind in Calgary, he says, can really comprehend. "It's not words, even explaining to teenagers in Canada. They don't watch the news. They don't know which gang on."

He would have changed since Sept. 11, but maybe the smooch on the Pentagon and

the World Trade Center have made North Americans more sympathetic toward Israel, he says. Maybe he's felt more at home now (now he says Canada). "People used to look at us and say we're the bad guys, no matter what we do. Now they know what the bombings are like," says Hassan. "When we tell their children it's an accident. When they kill us, it's on purpose."

As much as a real estate agent in Calgary gave Malik Sharone plenty of time to absorb the heavy nature of the business location, location, location. So it's not surprising that his family's home in Gaza City is in what was considered a good neighborhood, not far from the shores of the Mediterranean, a couple of kilometers from Yasser Arafat's compound, right next door to a school and the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority Presidential Security Service. But in the past six months, Israeli warplanes and helicopters have launched dozens of air strikes against that part of town. In early December, they blasted the security services office, killing two people and injuring dozens of bystanders, mostly children. That strike—a retaliation for suicide bomb attacks in Heifa and Jerusalem that killed 25 Israelis—shattered every window in Sharone's house. "Welcome to Gaza, the most peaceful area of the world," he says ruefully.

It's not what the 50-year-old thought he was getting into when he arrived in 1996, after 30 years of living in Calgary. He was curious to see how things had changed and eager to help build a new country. For a time, Sharone worked as chief of staff for the Palestinian Authority

## Canada and the World

**minions of finance.** He had missed the orange groves that surrounded the city. Now he misses the snow, hockey, and the peace and quiet. He's drinking more than two packs a day. "It's a very hard place to live for anyone. Who enjoys air strikes and shelling?" he asks. "Any time an Israeli plane comes and strikes, it causes fear. Are you the best target? How do you know if a Hamas or a Fatah member is living in the building next door?"

Shawwa doesn't work for the Palestinian Authority any more. He's gone back to selling real estate, and runs a side business helping Palestinians get foreign study and work visas. He also acts as Canada's volunteer diplomatic worker for the Gaza Strip. A glow of Shawwa shining hands with Jolai Masri hangs proudly on the wall of his office, next to a portrait of him embracing Anfal, and his multiple top-seller awards from his Calgary days. The Canadian passport Shawwa still carries sets him apart from almost all the other 1.2 million residents of the Gaza Strip; he can leave any time he wants, and frequently does, whisking his wife and two children through the VIP terminal at Erez for a minute and a half and in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. "I can't live in a jail," he says. "I'm not used to seeing home Friday and Saturday nights."

He takes care of the abbreviated aftermath of the city. The Jabalya refugee camp, a Hamas stronghold, where all the school-bus-size bombs and the walls of the apartment blocks are covered with deflated tires, spray-painted in Islamic green. The main police station disintegrated, now piled after five air strikes over the past months. Anfal's senate compound and helicopter landing pads—a high-profile target that has been virtually decimated in a series of raids since December, the latest on March 11. The women are dirty and the men disheveled, but even after 17 months of severe economic hardship, there are still shiny, new Mercedes cruising the boulevards near the Palestinian legislature, keeping their harem as they pass home-made wagons. "Everybody is sad, everybody has lost a son, a daughter, a neighbor or a friend. Shawwa says he likes my mother-in-law. "Oh, the Palestinian? You are nothing but Israeli. I don't hate Jews, but I have the way they think about Palestinians—that we are all animals who have to be destroyed."

I ask about the violence that flows in the



Hassoun and Shawwa (right) meet. Khalil (below) says she is "first and foremost a Jew."



other direction, the shootings, the mortar attacks, the suicide bombers who blow up women and children, Shawwa deplores the killings, and he believes most other Palestinians share his view that the violence "shows the real face of the occupation." But at the same time, he says he can understand the frustration that breathes life into the movements that wage war against Israel and its civilian population. "The Palestinian people have lost hope. They have no hope that someday someone will be on their side to help get their rights back," says Shawwa. Hamas did everything for the Palestinians, he adds, something people back in Canada, a country of vast space and abundant resources, can't even begin to grasp. No amount of force or outside pressure is going to stop the struggle. "This violence is nothing—it's going to get worse and worse," Shawwa predicts.

It's a busy day—for visa applications, not real crime—so Shawwa has to cut short our meeting. On the way out I ask how his children are adapting to life in Gaza. Rami, his 15-year-old son, is becoming a bit of a worry, he says. Before the conflict, he was like his schoolmates back in Calgary, obsessed with bikes and sports. "Now he just plays computer war games, and builds settlements in the backyard,

and has his toy soldier army there," says Shawwa. "I worry. If this is what happens to a peaceful boy living in a good home, what happens to someone who grows up in a refugee camp?"

It's the scale of the place that is hard to comprehend if you haven't been here. The great Sea of Galilee is a decent-sized, cottage-country lake. The Jordan River might be deep, but it's certainly not wide. Ramallah is 20 minutes from the heart of Jerusalem, Bethlehem just 10. Ariel Shalom's recent pledge to achieve "security separation" from the Palestinians, creating buffer zones with fences and military patrols, would appear to be an impossible dream. The two peoples are cheek by jowl, seen left at an intersection and right in an Arab neighborhood, turn right, you're on a Jewish one.

As small as the country is, a lot of Israelis would be willing to trade parts of it for peace. Sari Kliff is not among them. She is emphatic as she sits in a cafe in Jerusalem's busy German Colony—busy because it was then one of the few neighborhoods yet to be attacked. (On March 7, dirt insurance *self* downed a suicide bomber in the cafe's door and the neighborhood—named after a group of German Christians who settled there in the turn of the last century—was added to the long list of "no-go zones" for many Israelis.) The settlements in the West Bank and Gaza are part of Israel, and they should stay that way, says Kliff. "They took it. They won it. The land is theirs. Why a land always held in a different standard than anyone else?" she asks, now rising, her eyes flashing. "This is a conflict that has been going on for thousands of years. This is not. You took my piece of land. This is a historical conflict."

The 55-year-old from Vancouver has



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## Canada and the World

Born in Israel for the past eight years, and has lived in the country for 12 years in total. Her two-year-old son was born here. Her husband, who lives in Toronto, is one of the owners of the "I Am Canadian" beer commercials, but Klaff says her heart is in a different place. "Above any nationality or passport I always consider myself first and foremost a Jew," she says.

The last few years have been hard, Klaff admits. Both she and her husband Brian lost their high-tech jobs when the dot-com bubble burst. The births and attacks are wearing her down emotionally. When she leaves the house in the morning to travel downtown to the school where she's training to be a chef, Klaff wonders if she'll ever see her husband and son again. On the city bus, her thoughts always seem to drift to worst-case scenarios. She looks at the people she passes on the street differently. "I don't feel scared. I feel angry," says Klaff. "We were scared. I would have left a long time ago." She wants peace, but not at any price. The Israelis have lent her over background to accommodate the Palestinians, she says—they have to stand firm.

Friends and family back in Canada may not understand, says Klaff, but for all its trouble, Israel is a special place. The people are filled with a goodness, generosity and purpose she finds lacking in her homeland. "This is where I want to be," she says. "This is where I can be the kind of Jew I want to be."

Asa Anani is no less committed to his country, even if it doesn't officially exist.

The 37-year-old graduated from McGill University's political science program in 1999, and subsequently took a job with a group of lawyers advising the Palestinian Authority on its negotiations with Israel. His father is Palestinian, but Anani had little first-hand knowledge of the situation. He arrived in Ramallah two weeks before the intifada began in September, 2000. "I consider that I am part and parcel of this society somehow," he says. "I felt that I was needed here; that I had a part to play, even under these hot conditions, these critical conditions. That's the time you want to say here and make sure you're doing your part." The night we talk, Israeli planes, tanks and helicopters are pounding Palestinian positions in the city and the rest of the West Bank, in retaliation for a spate of suicide bombings and shootings.

Ask Anani if he ever saw his Canadian passport to travel into Israel. "No, why should I?" he shrugs back. He's spent the past 18 months in Ramallah but never goes to Jerusalem? "Oh, I go to Jerusalem every week," says Anani. "East Jerusalem. But for us that's not part of Israel, that's occupied territory."

Anani, who is careful to underline that he speaks for himself, not his boss, says he believes the Israelis bear much of the responsibility for the violent confrontations. Even after signing the Oslo Accord in 1993, they continued to build settlements, erect road checkpoints, make it harder for Palestinians to earn a living. "Violence is never justified, but the Israeli's created a situation on the ground



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## Canada and the World

that is conducive to something like this happening," he says.

Does being a Canadian change the way he looks at the conflict? Can he offer a different perspective, a different vision of the future? "I lived in Montreal," Anwar says. "It's a multi-ethnic city—people of different cultures and religions live in peace, and find a way of dealing with each other." Here, things are different. "I tried that two people who live side by side should not be able to coexist in peace," he says. "Just peace cannot come without justice."

Sharon Roking, another Vancouverite, has spent the last six years trying to build peace from the ground up instead of the top down. As a project director for the Economic Cooperation Foundation, she has been trying to get Palestinians and the Israelis who live near to them, talking about the myriad of small day-to-day cross-border problems they share—garbage, sewage treatment, water supplies. "We're promoting a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side," says the 55-year-old. "They don't have to be in each other's laps, just live with each other."

Roking has outpaced the travel-going Canadian questions and has her answers ready. Yes, she firmly believes her nationality helps her do her job. "It's easier for Palestinians to accept me and it's easier for Israelis to accept me as a liaison." But the stress of the last year and a half is starting to chip away at the optimism she has at another positive Canadian attribute. Early on in the conflict, Israeli forces flattened the office building in the West Bank town of Jenin that had been the Palestinian base for the project. Sitting at a beach table in Tel Aviv as the sun goes down—west door to a now-closed nightclub where 21 Israelis died in a June, 2001, bomb attack—Roking says neither side has a monopoly on misery. "We live in fear. I don't like being any more. But I can still sit at a beach by the Mediterranean and drink beer," she says. "In Jenin, people can go to the next village to visit relatives, women can get to their doctors or do their shopping. It's a different reality."

Whatever has it worse, there is no denying that after 18 months of attacks, reprisals, more attacks, more reprisals, the situation has become routine for most Israelis and Palestinians. People have adjusted their daily lives to the cycle of

violence, and calculate the risk associated with every crowd, shopping trip or commute to work. A Canadian journalist living in Jerusalem makes dinner reservations for us at a restaurant on the eastern part of the city. The food's pretty good, he says, and the risk of getting blown up is a lot less in an Arab neighborhood. Over the meal, he expresses about life in Israel, but says his job is starting to get him down. The story is the same, day after day after day. "You need Palestinian kids coming up to me with pieces of their friend's brains in their hands," he says. "You need watching policemen climb through his and piece of people after a bomb goes off. Sometimes you just want to throw your hands in the air and scream, 'A pox on both your houses!'"

Arif Hamawi was safely outside the AWP lounge at the time crossing, scuffling the toe of his boot across the terrace. He knows. I'm sitting him up, smiling him meet someone he's not particularly interested in talking to. We've been standing there for about a half-hour when Ma'li Showa finally under open sun—his left car on the Gaza side of the crossing, not wearing the hoodie. The two Palestinians shake hands as the photographer clicks away. Showa has a real estate agent's handshake for small talk. They chat about the neighborhoods they used to live in, and the forests of the Flamingo. "I hear Jessica is doing well this year," says Showa. "It's definitely not the beginning of a new back channel between Israel and the Palestinians; the conversation is deliberately kept polite and generic." "I was surprised to hear that there are Canadians living in Gaza," says Hamawi.

The mixed meeting has less than 15 minutes. The only agreement they strike is over a freeway city in a country that has ceased to be home. "I'd like to go back to Calgary someday," the Palestinian confides. "Me too," says the border guard. "After all this shit is over."

Showa reaches into his pocket for his cigarettes and offers one to Hamawi. Arif declines, pulling out his own pack and a lighter. They both smile the same brand. It's a windy day. They dare not to shut the flickering flame. Hamawi lights Showa's cigarette, then his own. A small act of politeness in a place where kindness is at a premium.

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# TALKING TOUGH

The view from both sides of the Mideast debate

**Branded a terrorist by some, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has also been a statesman, winning the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize along with then Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and foreign affairs minister Shimon Peres for the signing of the Oslo Peace Accord a year earlier. But then died a hero in action, while Arafat is facing international pressure as a man who won't—or can't—help end the bloodshed. Arafat's correspondent Marwan Shabeh visited Arafat as he composed in the Palestinian city of Ramallah, only days before Israeli forces ended their confinement of him. Except from that interview:**

**Maclean's:** *Palestinians inside attacks are occurring almost daily, including ones by members of your own Fatah party. How do you view them?*

**Arafat:** I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians. I condemn the killing of innocent civilians, whether they are Israeli, American or Palestinian. To stop terrorism, we must understand that terrorism is a symptom, not the disease. Only one thing can stop these acts of violence, and that is to cure the disease. You cannot arrest a symptom. You have to arrest the disease and the disease is Israeli aggression.

**Maclean's:** *You have called the Oslo Accord the "poison of the hour." What has happened in that hour?*

**Arafat:** Let us not forget that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was opposed to the Oslo Accord, which was signed at the White House on Sept. 9, 1993, and he recently announced that Oslo was dead. What does that mean? It means he wants to continue with his military strategy, to continue with the dangerous and dangerous plans to destroy our people, our land and our holy places. How can this be internationally recognized or accepted?

**Maclean's:** *Do you think the Israelis will eventually agree to the peace proposal put forward by Saudi Arabia that would require Israel to retreat from all territories it has occupied since the 1967 war?*

**Arafat:** We have given it our blessing. We think it is very good, and we hope it will be the approval of other Arab states at the upcoming Arab summit in Beirut on March 27. Israel's foreign minister Shimon Peres agreed to it, but Sharon will not agree. He and he is the only man mandated to agree to such a proposal.

**Maclean's:** *Many Israelis have claimed the Palestinians betrayed Israel when they began the ceasefire. What do you say to that?*

**Arafat:** They have to understand the order system by their own. Gen. Moshe Dayan, when Israel captured Jerusalem in the 1967 war, Dayan removed the Israeli flag which fanatic Israeli groups had placed on the roof of the Al-Aqsa mosque, and gave orders to prevent the desecration of the building. They should have known that a confrontationist presence in our mosques means aggression. [Sharon's Sept. 28, 2000 visit to the holy site where Al-Aqsa is located—the Temple Mount to Jews, the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims—helped spark the conflict].

**Maclean's:** *In 1993, was the option for peaceful coexistence real or a mirage?*

**Arafat:** Of course there was a very real opportunity. I signed the historic agreement with my partner, Yitzhak Rabin, and he paid for it with his life when he was killed by one of these fanatic groups who are now in power in Israel.

**Maclean's:** *What are you expecting the international community to do?*

**Arafat:** Where is the international community and their legitimacy and their international discourse and involvement? Where are the godfathers of the peace process—the United States, Russia and the United

Nations? I want them to intervene and stop the massacres.

**Maclean's:** *If you were able to turn back the clock and change something in your life, what would that be?*

**Arafat:** Nothing. I have one goal that I have been working toward all along—so are one of our young girls or boys take the flag over the mosque in Jerusalem. That is it.



*At the founding editor of the Jerusalem Report, and until January 2000, co-president of the Jerusalem Post, Herb Goldstein is one of Israel's most respected journalists. Goldstein served defense issues for the Post for nearly 20 years, and between 1986 and 1989 was an analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he co-authored two books: The Future Battlefield and The Arab-Israeli Conflict. He is now senior fellow specializing in security issues at the Tel Aviv-based Jaffar Center for Strategic Studies. While sympathetic to the plight of the Palestinians, he believes the killing and only stop when a comprehensive peace deal is signed and bridges are built to a new generation of Palestinians. He spoke with Maclean's World Editor Tom Frowell.*

**Maclean's:** *What is the sound in Israel?*

**Goldstein:** Israel is angry. Israel is furious. Israel is boiling over. We offered the Palestinians 94 per cent of the West Bank and what have we got? War in return. Arafat just turned hope into hell.

**Maclean's:** *Can there ever be peace as long as Arafat is in power?*

**Goldstein:** Arafat has devoted his life to liberating Palestine and bringing those expelled in 1948 back home. There is no



Arafat at work in his Ramallah compound only days before his confinement ended

way ideologically Arafat can agree to signing an end-of-conflict agreement that leaves Israel in control of 78 per cent of historic Palestine. Similarly, Ariel Sharon has devoted his entire life to the settlement of the West Bank. And Israel has invested billions of dollars to bring thousands of people to live there. For Sharon to say, 'My life's dream is a failure, I'm going to give it all back,' is an unacceptable goal. The tragedy is we're locked between two leaders who are encumbered by their ideologies.

**Maclean's:** *Sharon triggered the intifada when he visited the Temple Mount. Do you think he understood the consequences?*

**Goldstein:** Sharon went to the Temple Mount to throw a challenge from Benjamin Netanyahu to his leadership of the right-wing Likud Party. He went there to say, 'I am more right-wing than Netanyahu.' He never dreamed of the consequences. But there is a deep Palestinian lack of hope. When do they have to lose? That is a tragedy, and creates people who are willing to go and kill is easily human as possible. That is a very dangerous cocktail.

**Maclean's:** *Will the Saudi peace plan work?*

**Goldstein:** If the Saudi option offers non-motivation with the Arab world if Israel withdraws to the 1967 line, I believe it will happen. Israel will have to go through a massive political reorganization. But if Sharon and Arafat are circumvented, you would find that Israeli and Palestinian public opinion would say, 'Let's do this.' At the end of the day both sides know neither is going to go away and they will have to live together. But it is going to take leadership to break the cycle of violence.

**Maclean's:** *The U.S. is now trying to restart the peace process. Do you think this is part of a wider campaign to prepare the groundwork for an attack on Iraq?*

**Goldstein:** If America has an agenda vis-à-vis Iraq and it needs an Arab coalition backing it, and Israel and the Palestinians are dragging it out, it will be very difficult to get together. So the dispatching of U.S. Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni and Vice-President Dick Cheney to the Mideast last week may create a new dynamic. And interestingly, Sharon has backed out on several key policies, including liberating Arafat from his house arrest in Ramallah. So there is a positive dynamic in the air.

# STUMBLING ON ZIMBABWE

The Prime Minister finally gets tough, but it may be too little, too late

BY JOHN GEDDES in Ottawa

In his first eight years as prime minister, Jean Chrétien didn't exactly dabble when it came to foreign policy. But in 2002 all that was supposed to change: this would be the year he made his international mark. The vehicle for the Prime Minister's belated bid for world-statement status is a big conference to boost aid for Africa in the G-8 summit at Kananaskis, Alta., in June. Apparently though, nobody told Zimbabwe's thuggish president, Robert Mugabe, about the need to make sure Chrétien had a nice, smooth run-up to what will surely be his last run to host the annual gathering of political leaders from the leading rich democracies.

Mugabe unleashed a campaign of violence intimidation at his political opponents before his country's election last week. Dead-end how to react was the first test of Chrétien's grasp of his new foreign-policy specialty. The outcome, at least initially, has hardly secured his reputation as a deft African hand. Not that Chrétien shied away from trying to influence the international reaction. At a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government in Australia just a few days before Zimbabweans went to the polls, Chrétien boasted that a "Canadian compromise" on what to do about Mugabe's misbehaviour had prevailed. The question is whether a more uncompromising stand—suspending Zimbabwe from the club of Britain and its former colonies—would have better served Canada's reputation as a moral player in world affairs.

Britain and Australia wanted to go this far, but African leaders at the Commonwealth meeting were against anything nearly so drastic. Canada suggested holding off until after the voting, and then deciding on the basis of what impartial observers reported. That wait-and-see approach was adopted, but critics, especially in Britain, felt the Commonwealth had shamefully missed a last chance to put real pressure on Mugabe before he stole the election. Even Prime Chrétien, in a rare political concession, was quoted as saying, "If the Common-



wealth could not stand up for liberal democracy and human rights, it deserved to be treated with international censure."

Not surprisingly, given Mugabe's track record, the talking in Zimbabwe was a disposable effort. George W. Bush and Tony Blair would no more denounce the results—a stable victory for the incumbents—in Zimbabwe. Chrétien was at first more evasive, allowing only that "it doesn't look very good." He held off saying anything stronger until after a preliminary version of the Commonwealth election observers' report, released late last week, said that the vote was held "in a climate of fear and suspicion." With that damning conclusion official, Chrétien finally declared that members of Mugabe's government are no longer welcome in Canada.

The question is what more will be done through the Commonwealth—if anything. The Canadian compromise assigned the job of judging whether to impose tough sanctions against Zimbabwe to a troika of South Africa, Nigeria and Australia. Having helped broker the deal that gave the three nations the role, Chrétien must now press them to do the right thing this week. This will be a tall order. South Africa and Nigeria squigled—even before the election

observers issued their reports—that they viewed the outcome as legitimate. If their position of African solidarity with Mugabe prevails, the Commonwealth's credibility will be in crisis—and Chrétien's involvement in postponing a real confrontation inside the organization over Zimbabwe will have to be judged a failure.

And what about his hopes for a keener commitment to Africa at the G-8 group in June? Heins Dushwood, a University of Toronto political science professor and author of *Zimbabwe: The Political Economy of Transformation*, says getting top-level western support for huge government and business investment in Africa depends on spreading the view that the continent's worst days of corruption and violence are passing. Not only the way Mugabe ran his election, but the apparent willingness of other African leaders to let him get away with it, puts that optimistic outlook in doubt. "Key players like the U.S. and the U.K. are very, very angry," Dushwood says. "What's happened in Zimbabwe cannot help but overshadow the G-8 summit." Chrétien must now scramble to somehow lift that shadow in time for his planned star turn at the Kananaskis summit. □

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Standing guard at the entrance to the Pictou farm (left); Wilson's common-law husband, Steve Rix (center); remembering the dead

# STREETS OF FEAR

Relatives wait for word on what happened to Vancouver's missing women

BY KEN MACQUEEN

For a few hours on March 11, Serena Abbott's life mirrored more than the sad mystery of her murder. Her foster parents, Aron and Bert Drayson, her estranged family of friends and half-siblings, friends and fellow travellers gathered at Vancouver's Holy Rosary Cathedral for a poignant memorial service that said as much about the society she tried to live in as it did about the woman herself.

In life, Abbott, a 29-year-old, drag-addicted prostitute, relied on the largely invisible fringe. She worked Canada's deadliest red-light district—the port of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside known as the Low Track. It took her murder to bring her some notice. In death, she's part of one of the largest criminal investigations in British Columbia history, the disappearance of at least 50 women, most of them addicts, from the bleak district. The case dates back to 1983, but the majority of the women have vanished since 1995.

A joint RCMP-Vancouver police task force was formed last year to investigate the disappearances. It was boosted to 30 members last year, and has since been expanded to 85. While the investigation has several fronts, the primary focus for more than a month has been a jurisdictional pig farm in suburban Port Coquit-



Robert William Pictou has been charged with the murders of Abbott and Wilson

lan, 35 km from Vancouver. Robert William Pictou, an owner of the farm, was charged on July 22 with two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Abbott, who vanished last summer, and Mona Wilson, 26, who disappeared last November. Police won't say what led to the charges, but the spectre of a suburban killing field has drawn instant attention. The disappearances, as one

British newspaper put it, are "Vancouver's dirty secret."

Many of the women's families agree. Most began earlier missing-persons investigations by the Vancouver police, who half-heartedly and understaffed. But calls for a public inquiry have been rebuffed in part by Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen. The women were street-level prostitutes, and many had mental health problems. A significant number were, as Abbott was, of Aboriginal descent. Many were transient and estranged from their families, leaving them vulnerable, and—foster a police anecdote—difficult to trace.

Above all, says Deborah Jaroske, whose daughter Angela was one of nine women who disappeared in 1998, Vancouver seemed determined to protect its image.

Racism and the low social status of the women made it easier to ignore the disappearances, she notes. "I would imagine deluging funds would locate missing prostitutes was not high on the agenda," says Jaroske, who lives in the East Kootenay region. "The fact is if these women were from any other part of Vancouver we would never have seen such incompetence or sloth."

It was only last year, as the disappearances continued at an alarming rate, that the Missing Women Task Force was created. Police have moved quickly since then

on the investigative front, and to repair relations with family members. Task force officers met on March 10 with about 80 relatives to brief them on the investigation and to ask for their assistance in identifying shoes, clothing, and jewellery assembled from unsorted locations. It was emotional, concedes Vancouver police spokesman Det. Steve Durrant, who says he is "cautiously optimistic" the exercise advanced the investigation.

For the Draysons, the glass of publicity brought a welcome chance to educate. They allowed the media to attend Abbott's memorial, determined that her story would no longer be ignored. The Draysons spoke lovingly of a four-year-old already scarred by physical and sexual abuse when they took her in as a foster child. "Serena did not choose to live the life she did," her half brother Jay said in an emotional eulogy. "Conversations these fit for her."

She left home at 17, spreading reach of the net after life on the street. Yet she was fiercely protective of the brood of foster children raised by the Draysons. She phoned the family daily and attended church regularly, singing hymns loudly, if off-key. Last year, she wore a short, and poets about Vancouver's missing women, some of whom she knew and worked alongside, among the predators on the Eastside. They washed out by one, and Abbott had no illusions about their probable fate. "You all were part of God's plan," she wrote. "He probably took most of you home." But he left us with a very empty space. "Knowing the danger didn't lessen the grip of their addiction, which she continued to fuel by working the streets. "In memory of my sisters" was published last June in a pamphlet of poetry written by sex-trade workers. By August, Abbott, too, had vanished.

Even now, the Draysons don't know the circumstances of her death. "All the information that we have is that they found definite evidence," Bert says, his voice shaking. "DNA evidence that Serena and Mona are not any more."

The Draysons gave copies of Serena's poems to many of the 200 people who attended her memorial. They took some comfort that her life mattered to so many. "In heaven," Bert says, "that damn little love around."

The pig farm on Devonian Avenue is shrouded in a grey curtain of rain. The muddy 11 ha site is sealed off by new



Raymond Hurdal, 44, didn't show up

## Horror in a B.C. hamlet

Almost half of a tiny community's children wiped out in a horrific fire. A father accused of having committed an unprovable act. Last week, residents of Quasimo, a remote seaside hamlet on the northern end of Vancouver Island, mourned the deaths of six siblings—three boys and three girls between the ages of 2 and 11—in a March 11 blaze that has attracted the attention of RCMP investigation and the unwelcome glare of the media spotlight. "They were beautiful," said Elva Jaroske, one of the 75 residents of Quasimo, where everyone is a neighbor. "They were always happy, running and jumping around. They were pure joy."

Two members of the tiny community's volunteer fire brigade, who were among the first people on the scene, described a terrifying tableau. Raging flames engulfed all four buildings on the property. A madam Stella Handal, the children's mother, begged and pleaded with her estranged husband, Jay, to tell her what he had done with the kids. Handal, a musician of a man—nearly an foot six and weighing more than 250 pounds, with a bushy beard and mustache—sat impassively in the front seat of his beat-up Chevy van, watching the flames destroy his home. As the firefighters looked on, he calmly used to convert inside by shining his own threat.

The fascination of the first panicked, any more strange. Afterwards, the heaps of ash and twisted barbed-iron pools were so hot that it took forensic investigators almost two full days before they could start combing through the ashes where

the children's bedrooms had been. These the searchers found six small sets of charred human remains. The dead, say police, are the Handal's children, Sebastian, 11, Rosanna, 9, Mariah, 7, Miriam, 6, Levi, 4, and Linda, 2. Handal, 45, has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder and is undergoing a psychiatric assessment. His wife, 32, is under medical care for shock in nearby Port Hardy RCMP investigation have and little, so far, about their probe, but the first separate blazes appear to have started almost simultaneously, they note.

The close-knit hamlet, which is accessible only by sea and air, is ruled by Handal is the head of the local community association, and three of the children were registered at the local one-room school. "It's terrible—I don't think most of us can grasp it," said Denis Ward, who attends the same Christmas Fellowship group in the Handals. "We were living in a quiet place," said Jaroske, "and suddenly it's like Sept 11."

Now people were once aware that the Handals were estranged. Friends describe the family members as loving, happy and devoted to each other. "Jay is an intelligent, polymath who always took great pride in his children," said Andy Whalen, a friend in Port McNeill, 40 km east of Quasimo. Last summer, Handal boarded with the Whalen family while working in a local orchard processing plant. "I remember the few times he wasn't able to get back home for the weekend," said Whalen. "He was pretty upset. What's happened is unthinkable."

Jonathan Greenhouse



Located in a church, WISH—the Women's Information and Safe House—provides a haven for Downtown Eastside sex-trade workers

chain-link fencing and yellow crime-scene tape. A police car idles at the entrance gate. If there is forensic activity today, it occurs out of sight, in the rural yellow farmhouse, or the barn, which has been crisscrossed of animals, or far from the street in the scruffy trailer, almost hidden by heavy equipment, junk and piles of fill.

Suburbs creep close. Across the road is the back wall of a Home Depot. New homes are under construction on the

farm's fringe. The Dickson family—Robert, the accused, and his brother David—sold part of the original 22-hectare farm development in the 1990s. That area is now covered by single-family homes, condominiums, a park and an elementary school. But even the remaining farm is an ever-present nightmare. Much of the land is buried under thousands of truckloads of fill, piled as high as 10m above street level.

As well as the farms, the Dickson brothers ran several other businesses from the site and from other properties in the region, including a home demolition and building supply business. They're also connected local zoning laws by operating Piggie Palace, a party hall, at a nearby property—a notorious magnet for prostitutes and motorcycle gangs.

Robert Dickson was charged with attempted murder in 1997 after a prostitute

## Canada

was found close to death on a nearby roadside, bleeding from multiple stab wounds. The charges were stayed in 1998, though the reason has not been made public. Now, the entrance to his farm is an impressive shrine of flowers, notes and photographs of missing women. "Forever Young. Forever Maud," reads a dedication to Catherine Gosselin, who went missing in 1995. "I am so sorry," reads an anonymous note to Diane Melnick, who also vanished in 1995. "There are so many if onlys!"

Many of the same names are on a poster of the missing women taped to the door of WISH (the Women's Information and Safe House), a haven for sex-trade workers located in a Vancouver seaside church. There are no photos of three of the women, not even police mug shots. It's as though they passed through life without leaving footprints.

WISH workers serve a hot meal six nights a week to many of the women working the Low Track. They hold safety seminars and run literacy programs, they sponsor health clinics and organize a "Beauty Nights" to repair the wounds of street life. The women arrive nightly with tales of theft, beatings and rape. The information is passed to the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society, which distributes a "Bad Date List," describing violent jobs and vehicles to be avoided.

A handed women or man will walk refuse at WISH during a single night. The room is full of thick-smoke candles and overfilled chairs, and many women will catch a few hours sleep in the sanctuary. The hardest part of the job, says WISH executive director Karen Daubly, comes at 10 p.m. when the centre closes. The women are rounded and sent back to the street. "Keep yourself safe," is Daubly's message. "That's all I can say. I mean, what else can I say?"

It's a quiet Tuesday morning and D'Arcy Good, 32, is on the Low Track, flushing a sink at the fire can crushing Jackson Avenue. She's worked the Vancouver street for two years, long enough to see the missing women's list jump to 59 from 27. "They're dropping like flies," she says, "in the hands of people taking full advantage of their situation." Her eyes are a startling clear blue, but her face has no-

ded her skin and ravaged her blood good looks. Her hair costs her \$100 a day, but it's a slow burning. Over a coffee and a plate of French toast at a local café, she has time to talk.

She is articulate, congenial and convinced she's controlling the risk she faces daily. Good considers herself lucky by the standards of the street—loving family, prosperous Toronto home, no childhood history of abuse, a year's study at York University. But there's also a heroin addiction, developed four years ago in Toronto. "I never thought I could do something like this," she says. "You know, about my son."

She signed over custody of her two children, now eight and 11, to her mother, and fled to Vancouver. "I had to put distance between the people I loved and this addiction," she says. "I had access to stealing money from my family and I would have been in deeper, even. I couldn't live that way, you know?" Sometimes she is scared, she admits. Her friend, Patricia Johnson, also a member of two, vanished a year ago. It was months before she was added to the list. "They could be anywhere," says Good, who didn't hear from a month that her friend was gone. "First you check the hospital, the jails, the detentions—and then you worry."

She has rules for keeping safe. She won't jump into a car until she's taken a museum of the job. "We don't talk about what the emergency is before I even get into the car," she says. "I turn very irritable, that you make clear what you're willing to do and for how much." She doesn't tip off personal effects or carry extra cash in some women do, she says. Above all, the man he rides. She once turned down, for that reason, an invitation to the pig farm, which had a reputation, she says, for drawing working girls to drug-filled parties. "I didn't want to go out there for I got a bit of a fancy vibe, and I really was my intuition." Intuition and, the candidate, "also luck."

Good talks gamely of clearing up and leaving Vancouver behind. "It just so sorry," she says. "Life without heroin." She drains her coffee, offers a distant handshake and heads out the door. "Be safe," is such a lame goodbye, but she makes repetition. Really, though—what else can you say?

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McKeever brothers Brian (right) and guide Robin tore up Soldier Hollow

# WILLING AND ABLE

Bent on inspiring—and winning—Canada's Paralympians mine Salt Lake gold

BY MICHAEL SNIDER

Synchronicity is everything for brothers Brian and Robin McKeever. The cross-country skiing duo look as if they're connected by invisible strings as they power their way over the snow, arms and legs moving in tandem. Brian, the younger of the two at 22, started losing his eyesight three years ago because of retinal degeneration, which affects the retina. His peripheral vision isn't bad—the cut pick out the starting gate of his brother's skis as he keeps pace behind—but he has no central vision. His 20-year-old guide, a former able-bodied Olympian who competed at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, navigates the hills and turns. The trick, says Brian, who lives and trains with Robin in Cranston, Ala., is just to do what his brother does. "I have to trust him," Brian says. "We do a little communicating, but I just follow his technique as closely as I can. There's just a couple of inches, tip to tail."

Sure, the technique has its challenges, but try and keep the McKeever brothers off the winners' podiums. By Friday they had collected gold medals in the five-km classic and 10-km freestyle races at the 2002 Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City, with their final event—the 20-km free—still to come. Their triumph contributed to an impressive showing for Canada's 27-member Paralympic team as it bucked on the Salt Lake success of the country's able-bodied athletes last month.

Helping out were the Paralympic team's two lone female alpine skiers, double amputees Woolencroft and 1998 double silver medalist Karolina Wisniewska. Woolencroft, a 20-year-old Victoria native, battled back from a rough crash in the downhill on the first day of the Games to win gold in the Super G. "I was sore," she says. "I was a big tumble and I was shaken, but I really made a big effort to put it behind me and focus on the race." The great thing about the Frodo, and the detailed engineering student who does with three prosthetic limbs—one on each leg and one on her left arm—was that her friend and



Sledge hockey's Pierre Fivilette in net; skiers Woolencroft (above) and Wisniewska racing to the podium



narrator Wisniewska received the bronze medal beside her. "We train together on snow and off snow," Woolencroft says. "She knows how hard I work and I know how hard she works, and for both of us to be up there was even more rewarding."

Wisniewska picked up her second bronze at the Games in the Super G and added a silver in the giant slalom, while Woolencroft finished third for bronze. Also medalizing was David Wisley, 41, a five-time Paralympian from New Westminster, B.C., who won bronze in the sit-ski downhill and silver in the Super G. Scott Patterson, 40, from Vancouver,

took bronze in the giant slalom sit-ski.

In men's sledge hockey, Canada fell short to Sweden in the bronze medal game, 2-1. But for Canada's Paralympians, winning wasn't everything. Wisniewska, for one, hopes the Paralympics inspire disabled kids. Born with cerebral palsy—a debilitating brain condition that affects the muscle strength and coordination in both her legs—"Wisniewska remembers growing up in Calgary thinking she could never be an Olympian. "Maybe if we can educate kids about the Paralympians, kids who are disabled can become Paralympians. And they can be proud of that."

Smaller, better machines are on the way to do the job when the heart fails

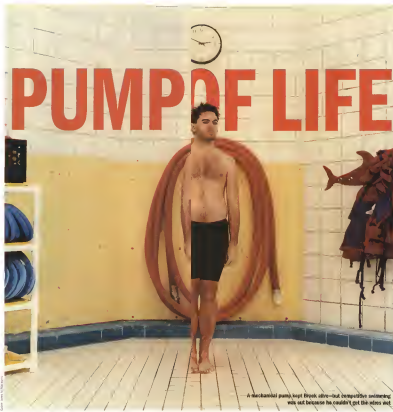
# THE PUMP OF LIFE

BY JULIAN DELFRAME

Medicine's holy grail might be edging away at a lab outside San Francisco, Calif., where, in rows of containers, tiny rotary pumps relentlessly send a clear liquid solution through a tube. Or maybe it can be found in an industrial park in Boston, where gas-pneumated nozzles and plastic pumps lined up in steel racks bear with a precision that would satisfy a Swiss watchmaker. Or, perhaps, at WorldHeart Corp.'s Oxnard headquarters, where an even smaller pump pushes a clear fluid through a polymer chamber at the rate of up to 10 liters a minute. In more than half a dozen North American facilities, researchers are engaged in what promises to be one of the most lucrative and laudable competitions in modern medicine—the invention of an artificial heart capable of rescuing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people indefinitely.

The race is on, and a Canadian company is a serious contender in opening up a new sector of cardiac medicine that carries the prospect of making whoever gets there first very, very rich. WorldHeart intends to put its HeartServeVAD, a hand-sized pump, through its paces in human trials by the end of this year. Government approval to market the wonder machine could follow, it hopes, by the end of 2004. The HeartServe has already been tested as cows, says a confident Rod Bryden, WorldHeart's president and chief executive officer. "and we haven't had one failure yet."

Such optimism is not new in the artificial heart business. As far back as 1969, when Dr. Deamond Coskey implanted the first



A mechanical pump kept Breck alive—but competitive swimming was out because he couldn't get the wires out

## JUST A HEARTBEAT AWAY

In a few short months, R.J. Breck used to be a swimmer with a bright Olympic future as a teenager with a very black future. In 1995, the then 18-year-old Monteville was training hard to compete in the Canadian national swimming event when he began having difficulty breathing. "I thought I had pulled a diaphragm muscle," he recalls. But it didn't clear up. Instead, it got worse, and then, on September 16, Oct. 4, 2000, he was in intensive care and almost lost his life. "I don't remember anything for the next six weeks," he says. "They had me on respirators the whole time."

When he came to his senses in March, he discovered what a close call he'd had. Attached to his waist was a battery pack with an electrical wire leading through his skin into his abdomen. That powered the pump he needed, for a Novacor left ventricular assist system (LVAS) that his parents had agreed to have implanted in his body. "It was either this or I'm dead," he said. Then Breck, who prefers R.J. to his given name Ronan James, began to swim again. Being young and otherwise fit, at average build at 5-foot-11 and 160 lbs., and having the proven best type of LVAS, he was a prime candidate for a transplant. He received a new heart on May 31 and was back in the pool within six months.

"What can I say? It saved my life," he says of the mechanical device a little larger than a gapefish that briefly took over the major function of his heart-pumping blood five years ago. A lifetime, yes, but not the life he wanted. "I had energy, but the thing bored me," he says. "And worse, I couldn't go swimming." He took problems with the new heart, however, and just over a year after the operation, in August 2001, Breck was taking part in the World Triathlon Series in Kofu, Japan. Competing against other swimmers who had earned the globe, Breck set four world records and placed as five gold medals.

Now, he wants to set a record of another kind. "I'm one of the youngest people to receive a heart transplant and I want to become one of the oldest living triathlon athletes," he says. The record now is 24 years. By that time, Breck figures, he may be in a better position to beat the odds by being among the first to have his heart tested through technology derived from stem cell research. Failing that, he could benefit from advances in artificial heart technology. The prospect of living with a mechanical heart—at least, one that's better than the sucker he had—doesn't faze Breck. "People love artificial arms and legs," he says. "It's no different."

J.E.



complex mechanical heart in a human in Houston, Tex., some predicted the breakthrough technology was five or 10 years away. That device kept patient Jarvik alive for 64 hours until he received a heart transplant—but he died just 36 hours later. It was 13 years before the next headline-grabbing milestone, the famous Jarvik-7 pump installed in Seattle, Wash., in the chest of Barney Clark, who became the poster boy for technological lifelines. He survived 112 days, but it was an encouraging sign: he suffered a series of strokes before finally succumbing. Nineteen years elapsed before the next big step forward, if that's the right term. Last July, in Louisville, Ky., 59-year-old Robert Roach became the first recipient of a full artificial heart that allowed the patient enough mobility to leave the hospital, the AbioCor heart by Abiomed Inc. of Danvers, Mass. Implanted for 151 days.

The AbioCor model may mark the end of the road for the dream of replacing the entire heart with a man-made device in the vast majority of cases. Instead, there is a growing consensus that those seminal operations, which seemed to forecast a brave new race of people with indestructible hearts, have led to a conceptual dead end.

"It's an interesting intellectual challenge to try to replace the human pump, but it has limited use," says Doug Lee, a health industry analyst with Yorkton Securities in Toronto. Even Dr. Robert Jarvik has given up on the open-architecture machine that made him a household name. "Replacement of the heart," he told *Muscle*, "is pretty much an obsolete approach."

For one thing, it demands a level of reliability never approached by man-made machines. The human heart expands and contracts roughly 100,000 times a day, pumping about 8,000 liters of blood. Over a lifetime of 70 years, the heart beats more than 2.5 billion times, with no gap-ups for lube jobs or repairs. Moreover, it's usually necessary to replace the whole organ. Most of the heavy lifting is done by the left ventricle, the chamber that pumps oxygenated blood to the far reaches of the body. The right ventricle has the comparatively easy chore of pushing spent blood to the nearby lungs. That means that in about 85 per cent of heart-failure patients, only the left ventricle is worn out. So, Jarvik and other experts wondered, why try to replace the entire organ?

By the late 1970s, that logic led most artificial heart researchers to refocus their efforts on technologically simpler mini-hearts. Known as VADs—for ventricular assist devices—these little pumps that aid the natural heart are far from science fiction. In fact, VAD development is mostly for the left ventricle but also adaptable to rare cases in which the right side of the heart has failed—has attracted some of the biggest names in cardiovascular medicine, including Jarvik. Another star is Dr. Michael DeBakey of Houston, who worked on developing a total artificial heart in the 1960s before shifting his attention to VADs. In Ottawa, renowned heart surgeon Wilbert Koon began assembling his VAD team, which eventually became WorldHeart, in 1989. "I've been working on this problem for nearly 50 years," says DeBakey, "and we're finally at the point

been able to raise \$99.5 million in research financing in buying the HeartSaver VAD, weighing two pounds and small enough to fit inside the chest beside the riding heart, in the point where it can be tried in human beings. "It's clear that the HeartSaver is about to set a new standard for next-generation VADs," says Chris Sussman, a research analyst working with Allumach, a Toronto-based market analysis firm, who in November prepared a 221-page report on WorldHeart. In 2001 alone, seven investors injected \$21 million into the company.

One big reason the VAD doesn't look like such a wild gamble any more is that modest versions of the pump are already working. Used in human trials for almost two decades, some types of VADs have been approved for use in Canada since 1999 to keep patients with failed hearts

**To have a significant impact on one of the leading causes of death, scientists must perfect an artificial pump that works as well as—and for as long as—a transplanted human heart.**

where we can start thinking of making artificial devices as dependable as human transplants."

The journey from conception to reality was considerably shorter for Koon. Pugg-backing on the pioneering work of others, the Ottawa surgeon imagined the next step in VAD development and set out to achieve it. In 1989, he lured Dr. Terry Masterson north from the Cleveland Clinic to work on a vision—a ventricular assist system that would be totally implantable in the chest cavity. Other VAD developments of the era envisioned a fairly bulky mechanical pump located in the abdomen below the diaphragm, connected by tubes to the heart, and with a wire protruding through the skin to an external power pack. "When I first explained what we were working on to a U.S. surgeon, he thought I was nuts," recalls Masterson.

In retrospect, says Masterson, the real miracle of the HeartSaver's development has been finding the financing. That's where Bryden, a local high-tech entrepreneur and owner of the Ottawa Senators hockey team, came in. Bryden's WorldHeart company, established in 1996, has

going until a human donor is found. That track record gives ample evidence that the next step—using VADs such as HeartSaver just as a stopgap, but as a permanent alternative to heart transplant—is close at hand. "WorldHeart bought a major maker of these temporary VADs—a division of Edwards Novacore LLC of Chula Vista, Calif.—in June, 2000. Its Novacor DSVS pumping system has already been implanted in more than 1,300 patients worldwide—including 10 in Canada.

Two European patients needing transplants have lived more than four years on the pump. So reliably have the device performed that last month, WorldHeart began testing the Novacor unit for long-term use in Canadian patients who are not eligible for heart transplants. Denis Demers, 61, a Montreal cook, became the first of about 30 who will receive the mechanical version during the trial in six Canadian hospitals.

Until now, Matthew Watson, a 23-year-old psychology student at Ottawa's Carleton University, has been typical of people who received VADs in Canada. The pump was simply to keep patients with heart



Watson noticed that his mechanical heart pump clicked louder when a care nurse entered his room.



far profile can fit in the chest, the thicker configuration of the LordHeart means it must be implanted in the abdomen. If the two wires equally well, there's no question, Bryden contends, that patients will choose the HeartSense.

So who will win the big prize? Merely figuring out what's closest to human (it's not necessarily enough to go on "In the VAD trial, you never quite know who's ahead until the end," says Cassman. "You can get in clinical trials fast, but if the outcomes are not there, you might find the delay is another six years.") Jevils doesn't like to talk of success. "The real story," he says, "is creating a practical device that can be used by almost all hospitals that do cardiac surgery, that allows people to function with very little medical follow-up, that allows them to walk a mile, go to work, and avoid medical nonsense."

Even the order in which rivals ultimately get government approval, adds Jevils, will not necessarily determine success. In fact, Bryden thinks the market is too big to be controlled by any single manufacturer. By the end of the decade, he predicts, patients and their doctors will be able to choose from a variety of heart devices.

Pre-Kernan, waiting for that day. After two heart attacks, the 65-year-old Danes, Conn., insurance broker was told in 1998 that he had at most a few months to live. "I was close to pushing up daisies," he says. On Aug. 11, 1998, Kernan jumped a few lines on his wish list with a Novacor pump. "I was able to go back to work, go out, do dinner, travel," he says. "I even helped build some farms for my yard. The only thing I wouldn't do is water-proof because if I fell in, the creek would wash me." The reasoning for Kernan was a heart transducer, which he received on Jan. 2. But he has good reason to stay alert of WorldHeart's developments of the HeartSense. "They're not there yet in being able to take the place of heart transplants," he says, "but they'll get there." Should his new human heart fail in a few years, as transplants usually do, Kernan may find himself counting on the next generation VADs to take him to the end of his life. "It's a miraculous world we're living in," he says. The question is what will make this particular miracle happen first, cheaper and best? ■

Should health care coverage apply to expensive tech equipment? Inventors in a quandary? [Read more](#)

# TECHNICAL MARVELS

Some are costly, but new tools can revolutionize the practice of health care

BY DANYLO HAWALESHKA

*They're everywhere. Tied on the TV, tucked up a newspaper or magazine, and the stories keep on: even cells to heal the body's failing tissues; organs, transplanted inside, like minute-shin-oval world of nanotechnology; and, yes, as in the previous story, the futuristic quest for an artificial heart. Medical innovations abound, and remarkable success has led to products that greatly improve people's lives, or promise to do so near future. Some medical innovations at the cutting edge of Canadian research.*

## SMART LEG

Imagine losing a leg and then, miraculously, getting it back again. Something very close to that has happened to Gerry Meyer, who lives near Bradford, Ont. It's been almost five decades since a severe carpal tunnel injury left him with a right leg above the knee to pasture a tobacco farm from spending. Since then, Meyer, 64, has owned a dozen prosthetic legs—but nothing compares with the one he has now. His first was carved from the wood of a willow tree. The fitting, really Meyer, a retired health-care director, says, was a painful, painful, and full of fear process—working away at the spots that hurt and the leg felt comfortable. By contrast, technicians made his latest prosthesis, called C-Leg, with a leg-top. When Meyer first tried one on two years ago, he was amazed. "It was just so amazing," he says. "It's able to walk down a steep hill without collapsing."

Kelvin James, a research associate at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, developed the computerized technology and mechanical hardware behind C-Leg. James then licensed it to the German joint firm of Otto Bock Orthopedic Industry of Canada Ltd. For five years, Otto Bock has James to Germany periodically to pick his

brain while working heavily to refine his research. The end product is an unparalleled prosthesis which gives amputees the ability to move about almost normally. But a custom-made pair—up to \$45,000 per leg, only partially covered by provincial health plans. About 125 Canadians have a C-Leg. "When I first heard the price," says James, "I thought, hey, how can you get anyone to come up with that kind of money, but they're doing it."

The automated leg features a sensor that measures knee angle. Another measures the flex in the user's dominant standing on the heel, sole or toe. The leg's electronics calculate speed and position 50 times per second. Two tiny motors adjust the leg's hydraulic pump, which controls the swing of the leg. "With other legs a felt like I was dragging a leg," says Meyer, "but the C-Leg is as light as a feather." Powered by a rechargeable battery good for 30 hours, the C-Leg gives him a normal gait and the ability to descend stairs without difficulty. Meyer still goes up stairs one at a time—he's barely strong enough to fit in the leg can provide the power to lift a chair.

## THE FUTURE IS NOW

Computers revolutionized the prosthetic leg, and they're doing it to the operating room. The robotic O.R. of the future is due to start functioning at Kingston General Hospital in Ontario in December. There, surgeons won't even have to look at their patients as they sleep and breathe. Instead, they'll do their jobs with greater precision, while staring at a computer screen next to the patient.

First, a patient will get a CAD scan—a 3-D X-ray—of the area to be operated on. The resulting image will add



The computerized C-Leg in action

on. Doctors will then plan their surgery on a graphics workstation, and download the results onto terminals in the O.R. The operation will start with the surgeon viewing a light-emitting target into the bone. A bank of infrared cameras mounted to the ceiling, floor or wall will then track that target, allowing the CAD scan image on the surgeon's computer screen with the patient's body. Watching the progress on the real patient, the surgeon will also receive the virtual operation with precise accuracy on the real patient. The patient's smaller incisions, shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery times.

## IT IS BRAIN SURGERY

Another new technology will remove surgeons from the operating table altogether and let them work on the brain by means of their robotarm. The University of Calgary has announced a \$6-million deal to develop such devices. In December, engineers from MacDonald, Dettwiler Space and Advanced Robotics Ltd. in Burlington, Ont., visited Calgary to witness brain surgery at Foothills Hospital. The plan was to learn as much as possible and apply it to building the robot, known as the neuroArm. "The O.R. means," says Tim Fielding, head of mechanical systems for the project, "were waiting for us to pass out and end the flow."

No one did, and the engineers returned to Edmonton to begin their design. MID Robotics, which bought Spine Aerospace Ltd.'s robotics division and as Canadian technology for space shuttles, expects to have within two years what it calls "the most advanced medical robotic device in the world." The neuroArm will consist of three limbs: one to perform the surgery, and a third to bear two probing cameras providing views of the patient's grey matter. Magnetic resonance images will add

additional detail.

The main advantage will be smaller surgical tools and, in some cases, less invasive surgery. Sitting in a control booth, the surgeon will direct the neuroArm to insert needles, grab cancer, dissect, suture, cauterize, close—pretty much anything a brain could do, but with greater precision and tiny access holes. Sensors at the tips will give the surgeon at the controls a sense of touch, says Perry Newhook, who oversees the project's technical systems. "We're trying to provide good feedback to the surgeon so they're not missing anything by not being there."

Like in previous counterparts, Millennium's Virgo MRI, one of which have been used in Canada and the United States, can detect brain tumours and various vascular and skeletal disorders. It has a permanent magnet which, unlike other MRIs, does not require electricity to generate the powerful magnetic field used to peer inside the body. At US\$800,000, the Virgo costs less than half as much as high-end MRIs. Another plus, says company president Illich Cherg, is a novel C-shaped design that improves patient access. Other machines, resembling giant doughnuts, pose difficulties for the obese, people with claustrophobia and nervous, squirming children. "With the Virgo," says Cherg, "patients can even hold their child's hand."

## FACING DEMENTIA

Life can be about making the best of a bad situation. That's how Laird Rushton, 33, of Campbell River, B.C., looks at his grandmother's cognitive decline. Margaret Rushton, 85, has Alzheimer's disease, and while she still knows her family and remembers her wedding in 1936, her twentieth anniversary is almost gone. Laird Rushton, a former high school teacher, says his grandmother is fortunate to live in the "Vaclav Lada nursing home in Campbell River, where 38 residents are monitored by an award-winning surveillance system. "It's the best possible situation," says Rushton, "in a new-age situation."

Virgo Health Management Inc. of Victoria developed the system to allow patients more dignity and security, give families greater peace of mind and place fewer demands on nursing staff. It's a security measure, patients' needs with senior citizens in the aging and doorway and across the bed. The Virgo system now keeps watch over 6,800 beds in 89 facilities in Australia, Iceland, the United States and Canada. To software companies data to form a patient profile that takes into account the amount of time the person generally spends in the bathroom or moving around in the room. Deputies from that room—the moments of an isolated patient or someone leaving the room to address—trigger an alarm. But there are no video cameras. "The value of being able to have visual privacy," says Rushton, "surrounds the Big Brother feeling of being monitored is someone's room."

## MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

Of the three cutting types of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, two require access to electricity and refrigeration with an expensive liquid-helium coolant. But the third, built by start-up Millennium Technology Inc. in Richmond, B.C., consumes only about a third amount of power needed to run two other machines and requires no refrigeration, making the firm a leader in the race to develop the new generation of MRIs.

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## MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Scientists have grown skin cells in the lab and grafted them onto burn victims for more than a decade. But the skin consists of only the outer layer, the epidermis. Dr. Prasad Agar, director of the Laboratory of Experimental Tissue Engineering at McGill University in Quebec City, says his team made up of not only the outer protective skin but also the underlying dermis—the dermis—to add strength and improve appearance. "The patients in the Burn Ward of my body," says Agar, "but the dermis is what makes a cushion, a little bit like Styrofoam."

Agar and his team are well-established patients. In 1996, they became the first to grow a blood vessel. Less than a year later, they achieved another milestone: skin grown with tiny capillaries. But the patients used to own skin cells and two-layered tissue is lengthy and needs to work longer before such with burn victims can begin. If things go as planned, Agar says trials could begin next year. An international race to grow a better skin is underway, and Agar plans to win. "With up there," he says, "with the best of them." ■



On the cutting edge



Brandt is the shadow of a rascal—his father Fong

# A TYCOON'S SAGA

B.C. retail baron Brandt Louie is quietly expanding a century-old family firm

BY KEN MACQUEEN

In the days before business plans and vision statements, Vancouver shopkeeper Hui Yit Louie wrote, in his native Chinese, a series of letters to his sons. It was 1934 and, in failing health, he'd returned for the first time in 38 years to his birth-

place in south China's Pearl River Delta. His trip meant leaving his struggling Chinatown wholesale grocery in the hands of the eldest sons among his 11 Canadian-born children.

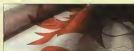
Hui's suffered hardship and prejudice since settling in Vancouver in 1896, and he knew Depression-era British Columbia

remained a hostile place. Shaped by a harsh environment, he had often seemed distant and driven to his children. It made the gentle sensitivity of his advice—written in the weeks before his death in China at age 79—all the more surprising.

"Be serious, firm and loyal in your dealings with customers," he wrote in one of three

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surviving spouses. "These things with your fellow members. Be careful to them."

His letters hung in the Burnaby headquarters of H.Y. Louie Co. Ltd., by some estimates the province's second-largest private company (after billionaire Jeremy Posen's empire). The tiny general store Louie opened in 1903 to sell food and fertilizer to Chinese farmers is today a giant wholesale and retail grocery enterprise, and co-owner with Sobeco Inc. of IGA Canada Ltd. His business, in its 100th year and third generation of family leadership, has branched into other, less predictable paths.

There's London Air Services, a fledgling jet charter business. And London Drugs Ltd., by some calculations the province's eighth-largest private company. Its novel drug-department store format has grown to 55 outlets in B.C. and Alberta. Two more open in Saskatchewan this summer in a cautious push outward.

The Louie company, with about 8,000 employees and an estimated combined annual revenue of almost \$4 billion, are headed by Brandt Louie, 58, a grandson. Hok Yai never met H.Y., an educated peasant who was glorified by race by-laws and brutalized by Anglo competition, would be shocked to find his grandson a pillar of the establishment. In addition to overseeing the family's expanding dynasty, Brandt is a director of the Royal Bank of Canada—which in the early days refused a loan for the family business—and chairman of the governing boards of both B.C.-based Slocan Forest Products Ltd. and Simon Fraser University, among a daunting list of other business and charitable boards. *Canadian Business* magazine, in its year-end annual ranking, listed him as Canada's 49th richest person, with an estimated fortune of \$530 million.

Yet most British Columbians haven't heard of Brandt Louie, and he couldn't be happier. His aim, he says, is to be "nondescript," though the adjective is a lame description of his steady intensity. He sits for his day-in-and-out in the Redwood boardroom of London Drugs, under a huge portrait of his late father Tong Louie, the former head of the company and a revered man in B.C. business.

A boardroom wall is dedicated to the accomplishments of his father, who died in 1998 at age 84. It is seen at first a curious place for the interview, especially for a son who was acutely aware of growing "in



Hardship and prejudice: (Clockwise from top left) H.Y. Louie with sons Tong and Tim; sons Gracie, Willie and John with first salesman (right), 1941; 1930s employee; on delivery

shackled to a mountain." But he's made his own mark on the company since succeeding Tong as president of H.Y. Louie in 1967. And he father's legacy. "I'm very comfortable." In fact, the eldest says as much about a work self-confidence as a father's achievement. It's the difference between being guided by the past, as Louie surely is, and being smothered by history—the fate of many family businesses in the new generation.

No mission statement directs his family's sprawling affairs beyond the "very simple guidelines" of his grandfather's letters, says Louie. "They have been the vision this company has lived by, and if we've prospered a hundred years, it must be because those visions have stood the test of time."

*"Life is for the pursuit of happiness. Being people should always be aware in their work."* —Hok Yai, March 30, 1934.

Almost 2,000 people jammed a Vancouver church on a May morning in 1998 for the funeral of Tong Louie. They celebrated the son of a peasant, delivered into the world by his father in a rough bedroom across from his Chinatown store. They celebrated his business triumph in a city still

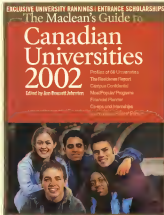
so racist in 1941 that a decision to move his home from Chinatown to Vancouver's west side generated a storm of front-page headlines. They celebrated his purchase of the struggling U.S.-owned London Drugs chain in 1970, and, above all, his charitable endeavors. "Money," he said, "does not go to heaven."

To Tong Louie, life and business were one. Even his funeral didn't slow the relentless pursuit of happiness. A party at Richmond later that day celebrated a new London Drugs center. To cancel the opening or shatter the stores was unthinkable, his friend and fellow philanthropist Joe Cohen had explained. "The public has got to be served at all times, that was his creed."

*"The execution of these plans is left to judgment as long as you are your goals based on the business's profitability. It requires work and care not to step out of the final point."* —July 23, 1936.

Food should work. On the face of it, London Drugs shouldn't work. The shelves of its sprawling 30,000-square-foot stores seem stocked by a purchaser afflicted with attention deficit. Prescriptions can be filled, and Asperin purchased. But how rough

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## Business

the canned salmon, microwave ovens, cameras, televisions, compact discs and computers? It's a drug store, cocaine brand Louie, "drug store in a name."

A premium is placed on knowledgeable staff and after-sales service. "We believe that our focus has always been in service, offering our consumers value," says Louie. "Not necessarily the lowest price, but value." What London Drugs has done in B.C. and Alberta is recreate the kind of mid-size "general store" that vanished in the 1960s, says Tom Leung, a partner with Vancouver-based retail strategist Thomas Consultants. "Their advantage is they serve a little bit of everything to everybody, but they're not necessarily big enough in any particular market for any of the other specialty retail chains to say that they are direct competitors," says Leung. "Therein lies the tremendous beauty." London Drugs' entry into Sullivan and Regis this summer, he says, typifies its conservative, below-the-radar growth strategy. Louie does not deny Ontario is "in the cards some day," he

concedes. "We're trading lightly as we move east."

Even London Ast, the company's filter into the pet charter business, has conservative roots. The first *Lesper* was bought in 1999 to our exclusive model.com. A charter company was formed to add the pet's dimension. Demand dictated a second phase. A third—capable of charter to Asia or Europe—entered service in January. The Sept. 11 tragedy ousted such a market for the security and convenience of executive jet that Louie finds himself bumped from his own fleet. "It's booming to such a point that now and then they ask me to fly commercial," he says. "You can take the jet, but we've got a \$700,000 charter."

"When pursuing property you must follow the line of Heaven. Don't be afraid to be kind and charitable." — March 30, 1934. As his father before him, Louie serves many of the requests for donations that inundate his office. A family and a corporate foundation grant estimated \$700,000 annually, in addition to initiatives at indi-

vidual cases. "It's always nice to give money away," he says. Receipts are spread among the 70 health and medical regions in the company's service area, among schools, museums, children's charities and scholarships. "We're more amenable to helping those who help themselves." A London Drugs donation to the Vancouver Maritime Museum financed the opening in February of The Watery Kingdom, an exhibit of ancient Chinese mariners. Louie concedes, however, he has little emotional bond with China and spends donations across all cultures, because "our customers have a personality."

His pioneer status in B.C. ran deep on both sides of his family. His late mother Geraldine's father settled in Victoria in 1862 after being driven to North America a decade earlier by the Gold Rush. "You look back at how many generations that we've been here," he says. "We don't really feel any affinity to China anymore." He speaks some Cantonese, though his two sons are more fluent. His wife, Belinda, who was born in Hong Kong and educated in the U.S., speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese.

"The more you learn, the better you get. Develop your own character as well as your working skills." — July 23, 1934.

Though it seemed inevitable that Brandt would one day enter the family business, it had to be on his terms. After graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1966, he worked as a chartered accountant for the firm Tweche Ross in both Vancouver and Montreal. He joined H.Y. Louie in 1972 at his father's behest. He replaced him as president 15 years later, after an apprenticeship that included everything from meat cutting to stocking shelves.

The fourth generation, Louie's sons, attend Duke University in North Carolina. —Gregory in medicine, Stuart in law. They need "to see how good they are" in something their father appreciates. "They did not want to live under the shadow of a mountain, either father or grandfather."

He told his sons to take 10 years before considering their future with the family firm. "But I'd like them to come back to Canada one day." Drawn perhaps by love or duty, or the pull of great-grandfather's dream. "Always remember to honor your parents. By following their wishes, you are honoring them."

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Donald Cox

## Advice for a comeback

One of the things that made the Olympics so special was that for two weeks just about the whole planet was on the same schedule. People from around the world arrived in Utah and left at similar times. Billions watched the opening and closing ceremonies in a shared experience.

Little noticed amid all the gushing about global togetherness through sport was another synchronicity: the world's economies that did not react in tandem together were emerging together. With a few exceptions (mostly from Latin America), recent economic meltdowns and stock market action have been producing a return to growth around the globe. Remarkably, financial doctors announced they had heard faint sounds of boomtime coming from the moribund Japanese economy; news that Asia's equally moribund stock market will like a Lazarus pressed by a lion.

If we are experiencing a synchronized worldwide cycle, that's big news. Since the global recession in 1973-75, downturns have not engulfed all leading economies simultaneously. Nor have the economies recovered on the same schedule. Indeed, economists have cited this variegated performance as a contributor to global stability. Japan being tough through the 1980s, North American and European recessions, and thus meant the world's second biggest trading economy kept importing goods. Similarly, the U.S. and Europe remained robust through the Asian recession of 1997-98, which meant markets for Asian exports stayed strong while domestic economic activity in those countries (with the impressive exception of China) was on the rocks.

How should investors place their bets if things have turned humming from Bangkok to Bay Street, and from Stuttgart to San Diego? Since simultaneous liftoffs are so rare, few portfolio managers have much experience in playing a global recovery. A few thoughts:

- It looks as if the synchronization was driven, in part, by the advanced inventory controls that corporations acquired during the technology boom. Not all the tech purchases they made were misguided! Business leaders saw the inventory buildup before the economists or Wall Street sensed them, and they responded quickly. Since they slashed inventories together, they'll be rebuilding them together, which means economic growth in coming months should be strong even if what economists call "final demand" (purchases by consumer) weakens.
- That also-inventoriate world greatly helped the American economy. Private Boeing, God of the North Wind, who did more for the U.S. than all the hot air producers in Washington.

The recovery looks like it's happening worldwide, all at once. That's new. Here's what it will mean to investors.

- The U.S. stock market should be a global underdog even. It is saddled with the highest price-earnings ratio, quoted in the most overvalued currency and based in the only country that's undertaking large-scale, costly and dangerous operations against global terrorism. We live in a world in which no good deed goes unpunished, so the U.S. is probably more at risk from Islamic terrorism than any country except its little ally, Israel.
- Asia will lead this recovery. Continental Europe is coming out of its torpor, but remains confound by its bureaucratic traditions. (The EU's rulebook for operating in Europe was 80,000 pages at last count, but it will double in size to grow far faster than GDP. Brussels is the world leader in developing an economy in which bureaucrats multiply in the shade of their own sectors.)
- Canada and Australia will outperform most Western economies because of the importance of their new materials industries. The fast-building, youthful economies of Asia use more units of commodities per unit of GDP growth than the mature economies of the U.S. and Europe, where software, services, health care and entertainment loom so large.

- As a general rule, investors should avoid North American and European companies that compete with China and East Asia. As a general rule, investors should buy shares of companies that produce what China and East Asia want—which is nearly everything.
- U.S. technology companies face more than a dubious supply/demand outlook for their products. Congress and the media are aroused by the scale of Enron's in the corporate sector and are demanding, down sectors. That would be a disaster for most tech companies, because they've gotten away with showing no costs for their million-dollar stock option programs that have so enriched their bosses at the expense of the investing public. Tech stocks will continue to underperform.
- Emerging stock markets should continue to outperform advanced stock markets.

This will not be a great year for the Standard & Poor's 500, because it has such low weighting in basic material stocks such as mining, oil and basic products, and such high weighting in technology. For Canadian stocks, it should be a five-year "What's hot about Canada" outlook was laid down millions of years ago. "What's worst" has been laid down by governments in the past three decades. This year the Canadian pays off.

Donald Cox is chairman of Harris Investment Management in Chicago and Toronto-based Jones Howell Investments.



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Retelling Canadian history in an innovative and witty way is no small feat. That's why Margaret Sweatman's epic novel *When Alice Lay Down With Peter* was a natural choice for the 2002 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Of course with the impressive offerings from the other nominees, Thomas Wharton for *Salamanca*, Alice Munro for *Hetshup*, *Friendship*, *Courtside*, *Loveless*, *Marnage*, Timothy Taylor for *Stanley Park* and Elizabeth Ruth for *Ten Good Seconds of Silence*, the judges' decision couldn't have been an easy one. Congratulations to all the winners.





## A duchess puts up her dukes

**B**e imperial with the duchess," says a small man in a quiet voice. He is standing in the Toronto office of William Aubrey Chiba, where Sarah, Duchess of York, is conducting interviews and signing photos for her new line of Wedgwood china. The Waterford Wedgwood Canada official adds, "She's had a bad day." It is 9:50 a.m.

Three hours later, the Duchess has finished five interviews and her publicist's mantra has become, "Avoid inappropriate questions." Sarah, 40, spent her morning defending her use of royal connections, her status as a *Wiggle* Witcher and new Wedgwood spokesperson, and her personal life, including her romantic attachments. However, when she finally walks into the room, Sarah is the picture of calm.

"I took 10 minutes on the other room and I asked myself, 'Why am I being harassed by people?'" she says. "In the old days it would have blown my confidence."

Now, however, she sees the criticism as a challenge—a way to turn negative comments or uncomfortable moments into a platform from which she can speak about her work, including Chances for Children and Children in Crisis, two charities she founded. "I am detaching from the old Sarah that would have taken it to heart," she explains. "And I'm proud of myself." She acknowledges the importance of being polite but firm, and maintaining her cool. "You never know who you are talking to," she smiles. "My mum always said, 'You never know who God is.'"

## Memoir of childhood under African skies

**A**lexandra Fuller wrote this fictionalized account of her upbringing in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) that went viral, she says, "spectacularly unpublished." But as the child of a British Imperialist, who fought in the civil war to keep the African country under white rule, Fuller now stands a day to tell. So she faced the subject head-on and wrote a non-fiction memoir, *Don't Let's Go to the Sun's Fought*. An African Childhood, published in December, "is fiction I felt like had to explain it all, to come at it from my island, feminist, vegetarian perspective," says Fuller, 32. "I felt responsible for the story. Whereas with non-fiction I am not responsible, especially not to a child. I was a witness really." Writing fearfully and unapologetically, Fuller gives a heartbreaking account of her parents' racism, the family's tragedy—including the loss of three children—and the war raging in the background.

When the black guerrilla forces took control of the country in 1980, Fuller's parents moved to Malawi and then Zambia, where they live now. Fuller went to university in Scotland and then to Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. "I fell in love with Canada," she says. "It was a culture that I understood. The people were quite reserved but warm, funny and smiling." She now lives in Wyoming. But Fuller is still very much connected to Africa and deeply and shrewdly by the political turmoil in Zimbabwe and the corruption of its president Robert Mugabe. She points out that at the end of the war Mugabe's government showed "an unprecedented level of forgiveness" toward the white population, even showing power. It is a tragedy, says the author. "To see the eye of the most intelligent, disciplined, fighting children of our race being taken to a chair."



Fuller finally faces the facts

Fuller left Africa for Wyoming nine years ago with her husband, Charlie Brown—a Canadian who ran a hotel company in Zimbabwe that they plan to move, with their two children, to Ontario at the end of the year. "I miss Africa," she says. "I don't feel fully alive unless I am there."

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Films BRIAN D. JOHNSON

# In the mood for war

In a cluster of combat movies, saving one American life is paramount

While war rages in the mountains of Afghanistan, we have very few combat movies to go with the news, which is dominated by press briefings from the Pentagon. But for those craving a visceral taste of life and death on the front lines, Hollywood has been quick to oblige. Lately we've been awash in war movies, and although they were made before Sept. 11, they're taken on a peculiar resonance. All of them glorify Americans trying to rescue companions trapped in foreign hellholes—and tend to promote the idea that saving a single American life is worth taking countless others.

Depicting war as a kind of high-contact sport, *Behind Enemy Lines* featured a downed pilot dodging bullets and fireballs in Bosnia. Then came *Black Hawk Down*, Ridley Scott's grimy masterpiece of combat porn about a real-life rescue mission in Somalia that turned into a bloodbath. Its *W.R. Heller*, based on another true story, Mel Gibson as a married commander who leads his troops into Vietnam's first brutal baptism of fire. And now *Harrison's Flowers* presents the fictional odyssey of an American woman who wanders into Cambodia in search for her husband, a photojournalist who's presumed dead.

These movies take place in what used to be called "Asian country"—where decent folk find themselves surrounded by hordes of hostile natives. In fact, Gibson's God-fearing character in *W.R. Heller*, Lt.-Col. Hal Moore, draws grim analogies to Carter's Last Stand as he heads into what he calls "the valley of the shadow of death." "We none of these films attempt to explain the politics behind the slaughter. Time and again, we're told what counts is not the cause, but the bond of brotherhood forged under fire. While *Black Hawk Down* presents war as a glorious obscenity, *Soldier* treats it as a sacrament, complete with a lyrical score. As if *Apocalypse Now*,



MacDowell plays a hopeful wife; Kerasi is one of the photojournalists who helps her

*Platoon* and *Full Metal Jacket* had never happened, writer-director Russell Walker serves American Vietnam experience as noble sacrifice. The narrator is a photojournalist who bravely ditched his career for a rifle. And the movie shows up on the battlefield after the fact like a pack of amping muskies. The movie war can be understood only by the race who fight it.

But 54 journalists died or disappeared in Indochina's wars, 89 were killed in the recent Balkans conflict, and eight have died in Afghanistan just last week on Italian photographers were killed by an Iraqi tank. *Harrison's Flowers* is dedicated to those who risk their lives by watching. Though in English, with American actors, it's not a Hollywood movie. Written, directed and produced by French filmmaker Eric Choucrique (*The Lady*), it's a fictional story loosely based on *Je soussigne* (or *Je soussigne à la guerre*), a memoir by French war correspondent Hubert Elan.

The premise, however, is familiar: When veteran newspaper photographer Harrison

Lloyd (David Strathairn) goes missing in Yugoslavia, his wife, Sarah (Annie MacDowell), refuses to believe it. Absentminded that two children, the risk making orphans of them by dying off to the war and throwing himself into the heat of battle. MacDowell can be an amazing screen presence as the best of times, and here, as she plays the crazy female tugging along with a band of male photographers, it's hard to share the film's empathy for her.

That said, *Harrison's Flowers* offers a compelling, and timely, portrait of the dauntless who take careers into the line of fire. Adrian Budy, Braden Gossau and Canada's Elise Kerasi give top-notch performances as the cowboy trio of photojournalists who help Sarah get to the besieged city of Vukovar. With its action sequences, this European drama fits with Hollywood overkill. There are striking scenes of photographers standing around in free-for-all the open targets. But after all, it's only a movie. Armed with the message that love conquers all, it affords a romantic immortality unavailable in a war. ■



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## Obituary



## SOPHISTICATED SAVAGE

Jean-Paul Riopelle was our master expressionist

BY BRIAN S. JOHNSON

He painted to be lived, with a reckless instinct and volcanic energy that threatened to burn the frame. Montreal-born artist Jean-Paul Riopelle, who died last week at age 78, was the most internationally celebrated Canadian painter of the 20th century, with some of his works fetching over \$1 million. Riopelle was the last of the great abstract expressionists, even though he devoted the rest, perhaps because it seemed so at odds with the embodied physicality of his painting.

As an iconoclast and libertine who drank hard, drove fast and signed revolutionary manifestos, Riopelle personified a golden age of artistic revolt. And as a Quebec painter whose career erupted in Paris, he bridged the intellectual landscapes of the New and Old Worlds. Who else could claim to have hung out with André

Breton, Jean-Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett, Alberto Giacometti, Gilles Vigorelli and Grey Owl? "He was a unique blend between the European and North American avant-garde, a cross between Jackson Pollock and Matisse," says curator Stéphane Aquiri, who will present a Riopelle show in June at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. "Like Matisse, he had a hedonistic approach to painting—he reinterpreted the great French tradition—but he also had the sheer brutality and monumentalism of Pollock."

When Riopelle's first work in Paris, Breton, the "pope" of the surrealist movement, baptized him "un *trappeur sauvage*" (a savage trapper), and the phrase stuck. Piling paint on canvas in shuddering cascades, the artist created savage abstractions that suggested a wilderness of Shetland rock and northern fiddlers without ever depicting it. More than one

French critic embraced that notion of a Quebec "trapper" landing from the bush onto the pavement of Paris. Despite his passion for the outdoors, however, Riopelle was a cosmopolitan. "Everyone described him as a force of nature," says François-Marc Gagnon, Quebec's leading art historian. "But he was more clever than he got credit. He was an intellectual who knew that in the Parisian avant-garde it wouldn't work to act like one."

Born in 1923, the son of a prosperous architect, Riopelle grew up with a love of drawing and nature. Through his father, he met Grey Owl, the legendary naturalist. And he developed a passion for painting landscapes and owls. After toying with ambitions to be a hockey player, a mechanic and an engineer, Riopelle entered Montreal's École des Beaux-Arts in 1940, then moved on to l'École du Mobilier, where he was influenced by painter Paul-Émile Borduas. Inspired by Breton's automatic-writing method, Borduas led the automatism, who advocated unconscious, unpremeditated art. With their 1948 manifestos, *Refus global*, featuring a Riopelle drawing on the cover, they fired the open-

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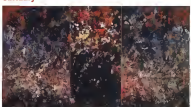
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## Obituary



In his 1954 triptych, *Favuse* (3 x 5 ft), Ringuette gilded paint in shuddering cascades

ing salvo of Quebec's Quiet Revolution—attacking the Catholic Church, and calling for "rependant anarchy."

After several pilgrimages to Paris, Ringuette moved there in 1948 with his new wife, dancer Françoise L'Épinoise, the mother of his two daughters. And in a Montparnasse studio, he created a series of huge abstractions. Mixing colour onto canvas with an organic sense of composition, Ringuette would create his "cosmic paintings" in intricate stages of activity, working 24 hours at a stretch. He abandoned brushes altogether and squirmed colour directly from the tube onto the canvas, using palette knives to model past into mosaic relief. "When a painter does a good painting," he said, "he does it in the throes of terror."

With the help of gallery owner Pierre Matisse (son of the famous painter), Ringuette's reputation soared in Paris and then New York. He represented Canada at the 1954 Venice Biennale, and in 1963 became the youngest artist to be honoured with a retrospective at the National Gallery. Ringuette's lifestyle, meanwhile, was as vivid as his paintings. As his work sold, he collected vintage cars, a 50-foot sailboat, and vintage girlfriends. He was the archetype of the raging bohemian, an image he loved to cultivate.

In a 1957 *Montreal* piece titled "The native genius we've never discovered," journalist Catherine Jones compared him to Gino Segni, and gushed about being driven around Paris in his Bugatti "with the same force, exuberance and firebreath of spirit that characterizes his paintings: daring dashes, unexpected riffs, rhythmic runs and soaring arcs." Curiously,

she also noted that Ringuette "kisses all forms of dancing.... He has never watched his wife dance although she herself practices four hours daily in a studio."

That same year, 1957, the artist split up with L'Épinoise and entered a turbulent, 24-year relationship with the American painter Joan Mitchell, who would die in 1992. In 1972, Ringuette moved back to Quebec, creating a studio-residence in a renovated barn overlooking a Laurentian lake in St-Marguerite. There, he revived his passion for nature, depicting snow geese and owls in a series of figurative paintings and lithographs. He also designed sculptures, including a bronze fountain of owls, acorns and forest animals for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. And in 1979, he shared crates with *Avril*, four walls hung with turbulent arrangements of black and white.

As the pigment bled from his work, Ringuette's health was also fading. Afflicted by osteoporosis, this artist who once treated painting as an act of physical exertion had to work sitting down, with spray paints, markers and airbrush. In 1993, as if migrating back to his roots, he settled on Île-aux-Grues, in the St. Lawrence, which is where he died. "What's surprising is that he lasted so long," says Aquin. "His regime would have killed most people at 40." The curators believe Ringuette remains underappreciated. "His contribution has to be redefined. People tended to get overwhelmed by his dynamism. The legend has obscured the work."

Art and technology meet at Montreal's 36th gallery.  
Read about it online

[www.36thgallery.com](http://www.36thgallery.com)

# WE RISE AGAIN

## An Image of Cape Breton Island

### WE RISE AGAIN

When the waves roll on over  
the waves  
And the ocean cries  
We look to our men and daughters  
To explain our lives  
As if a child could tell us why  
That as sure as the sunrise  
As sure as the sun  
As sure as the wind on the trees  
We rise again in the faces  
of our children  
We rise again in the voices  
of our song  
We rise again in the waves out  
on the ocean  
And then we rise again

No one else has the lyrics of the song "We Rise Again" written in 1953 by Louis Dumais of English Harbour, Cape Breton, and brought to prominence by Waylene Barker.

The people of Cape Breton Island have a history of resiliency and success that has seen them through difficult and changing times. Testimony to this can be seen today in the way Cape Breton Island is moving away from its dependence on traditional industries and on to newer technologies.

The island has undergone dramatic change. Over the past 40 years, more than 20,000 jobs have been lost due to the elimination of the coal and steel industries. In fact, in 1981, 24 per cent of the workforce was employed in those two sectors. Today that percentage is zero. Despite the challenges, a sense of optimism prevails. Just as the mythical phoenix rises from the ashes of its former self, Cape Breton, blessed with an indelible spirit, is reasserting its economic base and are poised to seize new opportunities. Customer

interaction centres, auto-parts manufacturing, Internet-based consulting firms, animation studios and a host of export-oriented small businesses have brought thousands of new jobs to the island.

This spirit of the island's economy is moving forward because the fundamentals of business success are here—an abundance of skilled workers, cutting-edge technology and infrastructure, very competitive business costs, educational support and a quality of life second to none. Such an atmosphere opens the door for corporations located elsewhere, as well as those already on the island, to expand and create new investments in an economy that is designed to welcome them.





### An Exceptional Workforce

Cape Bretoners are known throughout Canada for their strong work ethic and commitment to quality each and every workday. There is no question that the island's workers continue to be its best asset.

Cape Breton Island has been the site of one of Canada's largest construction projects. A world leader in paper production, Stone Forest Pulp Havelockville mill boasts the largest and fastest paper-machine in the world making supercalendered paper for magazines, catalogues and inserts. The new paper machine recently achieved its fourth daily world speed record.

Employing approximately 800 people, the mill produces 185,000 tonnes of newspaper and 370,000 tonnes of supercalendered paper each year. In 1998 more than 2,000 professionals and tradespeople completed a two-year \$810-million expansion of the plant as scheduled.

PFC, a division of TESHA International designs, engineers and manufactures engine, powertrain, fueling and cooling components, and systems for the automotive industry. PFC currently employs over 300 highly skilled workers who use CAD systems and CNC machinery to meet its certified QS-9000 supplier requirements. The company has operated its North Sydney plant since 1987.

The Membertou First Nation community has recently joined other island businesses and organizations that have achieved ISO certification. This is a first for an indigenous government in North America and an opportunity for business development and expansion on the island.

*Cape Breton Island is a unique blend of people who possess a deep loyalty to the place they call home. The island is world-renowned for its majestic beauty and distinct culture. It is home to over 154,000 people whose lives have long been shaped by the land and sea.*

*Strategically located on Canada's east coast, it offers quick access to markets in central Canada, the United States and Europe. Cape Breton is an island of opportunity in north eastern Nova Scotia where a new and exciting image is emerging, one that builds on a skilled and dedicated workforce, a fabulous quality of life, creativity and innovation.*

### The Cost of Doing Business

A recent KPMG study entitled *Comparative Alternative Study: Comparing Business Costs in North America*. Europe and Japan examined the cost of doing business in 12 industrial sectors in 86 cities across nine countries.

Among the findings, Canada placed first in the most competitive nation, overall. For location-sensitive costs, while the winning Canadian cost index was 14.5 per cent lower than that of the average American city, the cost index of the Atlantic provinces was better yet at 16.2 per cent lower than the American average. The Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBBM), located in Sydney, was one of the communities surveyed in the KPMG study. It ranked among the best places in the world to do business.

The study notes that the CBBM "had a cost index that was 15.5 per cent below the average U.S. city. With traditional strengths in health/education, tourism, and business/personal services, the area is moving into engineering/environmental technologies, information/communications technologies, and shared services/call centres. The CBBM is home to Nova Scotia's second largest concentration of information technology companies."

### Lifelong Learning

Thanks to a quality education system, Cape Breton Island boasts a strong commitment to lifelong learning. As industry demands new skills, the island's post-secondary institutions are there to meet the challenges.



*Abelton MacLean, president, Membertou First Nation, holds a certificate that is a source of approval in taking hold.*



*Atlantic Canada's only pre-finished hardwood flooring manufacturer. Forest People Works export markets.*



*Cape Breton's proud membership in the Membertou First Nation is the first indigenous government in Canada to achieve official ISO 9001 certification.*



*Stone Corp., a world leader in paper production, produces newspaper and supercalendered paper for markets in North America.*



*Sydney's natural harbour offers easy access to the St. Lawrence Seaway and major worldwide shipping routes.*



*Sydney PWC of North Sydney is a certified QS-9000 supplier of components to the automotive industry.*



*The University College of Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia Community College play key roles by providing strong educational support.*



*Sydney Airport is the most sophisticated regional airport in Canada.*

The University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) offers an innovative blend of degrees, diplomas and certificate programs combining liberal arts and sciences with engineering, technology and industrial trades. Located near Sydney, UCCB serves approximately 3,750 full- and part-time students. It is a



*The Shes of Cape Breton is one of the busiest airport ports in the world.*



Left: A 6/9/96 study finds that the Cape Breton Regional Municipality offers very competitive business costs.  
Centre: A qualified and dedicated workforce has enabled U.S. Inland Stream International to bring 1,000 people its centre on the island for months. Right: Highland Links Golf Course, in progress to world-class level. Consider course in Gulf Harbour and Saint John's.

foundation for growth in the region, offering an MBA in contemporary economic development, the most comprehensive designed program in the region, and also degrees steeped in the culture, heritage, commerce and music of the island. In addition, UOCB offers applied research and education in offshore oil and gas operations, and environmental sciences as well as an NBC research facility in wireless micro-electronics. Cape Breton and its university college are building for a new future.

The Canadian Coast College is one of the most modern and best-equipped marine training facilities in the world. From its waterfront campus on Sydney Harbour, the College offers specialized maritime training to both Canadian and foreign students.

The Nova Scotia Community College, with two campuses in Cape Breton Island, provides career training designed to respond to the needs of the community, business and industry. The campus provides industry-specific training and can assist students who want to upgrade their skills.

The Collège de l'Acadie, Nova Scotia's francophone university college, offers French academic and business programming.

A comprehensive workforce development system is in place to help businesses looking to expand or locate in Cape Breton. When companies require a new skill set for employees, the university college and technical schools work closely with them to provide customized training.

### An Envious Lifestyle

*Ministry magazine identified Nova Scotia as one of the "best best places to live" in North America. Why? Because it combines the best opportunities the future has to offer with a satisfying lifestyle that many people think is now a part of the past. No matter where you go on Cape Breton Island you are never more than 35 minutes from the coast. The average commute to work is only 20 minutes. That means extensive heating along the coast, or on the shores of the world-famous Bras d'Or Lakes, is not an affordable reality. Close-knit communities, cultural landmarks, historical sites and natural beauty make Cape Breton Island a superb place to live, work and raise a family. After hours, visitors embrace life with cellists, fiddlers and musicians to suit every interest. A host of musical talent, Cape Breton boasts national and international recording stars.*

Challenging, beautiful landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for recreational activity. Summer or winter, there is never a dull moment when it comes to getting out and doing things on the island. A golfer's paradise, Cape Breton Island is home to Canada's top-ranked course, the Highlands Links, as well as the contemporary Bell Bay course.

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Cape Breton Island is the perfect spot for whale-watching, sailing, windsurfing and scuba diving. Endless beaches



Celtic Colours, voted the top cultural event in Canada for 2001 by *Attractions Canada* and the top Canadian event for 2001 by the *American Bus Association*, drew attendance from 18 countries around the world. Visitors come from every province and territory of Canada and from 40 American states. The nine-day International Festival continues to grow in scope and size each year.

as well as rolling hills and sea breezes make the island one of the world's great playgrounds.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality is the commercial and service centre of Cape Breton Island. With a population

of 114,896 people within an 80-km radius, it is only a community of communities. Here, you will find road, rail, shipping and air links to all points around the globe. The regional municipality is home to a full array of educational, health-care and business and professional services.

The town of Port Hawkesbury is a thriving community which benefits from its strategic location as one of the deepest sea-free harbours in the world.

Cape Breton has a qualified workforce and is in close proximity to Atlantic Canada's burgeoning offshore oil and gas industry.



## An Island of Opportunity

Knowledge Economy—Online for the Future

### Cape Breton Island and Telecommunications

While much has changed since Gagliano Marconi and Alexander Graham Bell came to Cape Breton Island a century ago, the island's pool of creative and innovative minds continues to fuel the information technology sector. Geomatrix systems, distance education, digital animation and the research, development and application of embedded-device design are all being pursued on the island.

Most recently, a number of customer interaction centres have been established, with EDS Canada prominent among them. EDS is a world leader in this field and its Sydney centre is considered state-of-the-art. The centre's job growth has significantly exceeded expectations. A second EDS facility has been announced. By bringing its total number of employees to approximately 1,500, EDS will soon be among the largest private-sector employers on Cape Breton Island.

### The Word Is Getting Out

Stream International of Massachusetts has recently established a similar facility in Glace Bay, employing 1,000. In the last two years, almost 1,000 customer interaction centre jobs have been created on Cape Breton Island. Corporations are impressed with the quality, dedication and loyalty of the island's workforce.

Mike MacNeil, executive vice president of EDS Canada, says, "We have found that the workforce in Cape Breton is one of its best kept secrets. Beyond being a strong, family-oriented community, Cape Breton provides a high calibre of employee. Our successful operations in Sydney have prompted us to open an additional centre in Port Hawkesbury."

In 2000 the National Research Council announced a world-class research hub in collaboration with the Information Technology Innovation Centre at UOCB. The NRC-ITT/Wireless Systems Lab is designed for

research and development in partnership with companies interested in applied wireless technologies.

### Tourism

Knowledge-based and IT industries are not the only Cape Breton Island economic growth sectors. Many of the island's core-sector industries, like tourism, are benefiting from a change in attitude.

*National Geographic* Traveler recently listed Cape Breton Island as one of the world's 50 "places of a lifetime," while *Omni News Traveler* has called it "the most scenic island in the world." Over half a million visitors came every year for the spectacular scenery, the culture, the outdoor adventure and some of the best golf courses in Canada. And there is no shortage of high-end accommodations, services and attractions to keep them entertained.

The Cabot Trail, the Fortress of Louisbourg, the Celtic College, Highland Village and Bras d'Or Lakes are legendary as are the rich Acadian communities of Chatham and Isle Madame. Cape Breton Island is truly *Atlantic Canada's* masterpiece.

Cape Breton's music industry is a major draw. The island's musical diversity provides something for every taste, and the traditional music niche has exploded in recent years. Spurred on by the international recognition of performers such as Rita MacNeil, Natalie MacMaster, the Haves MaCraes and many others, traditional Celtic music is as staple at festivals and gatherings across the island. The Celtic Colours International Festival, each fall, brings people from across the world to experience Cape Breton Island's natural splendour and scenic vistas.

The tourism sector now employs over 6,000 people and generates \$230 million in revenue each year.

### Petroleum Development

Oil and gas exploration is one of the latest industries to be viewed in a significant contributor to the new economy of Cape Breton

land. Some of North America's largest potential oil and gas reserves lie just offshore Cape Breton in promising shelf and margin oil fields. For future developments in this area.

The oil and gas industry can benefit from a pool of over 2,500 skilled workers with experience in associated trades. This is a good news for companies considering locating in the area. As for ongoing training, there is a Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Development located at the University College of Cape Breton, and a Petroleum Institute at the Nova Scotia Community College.

## Environment

Environmental stewardship (preparing or restoring damaged sites) is a surprising new opportunity for the island. It is ironic that while 100 years of industrial and coal production have come to an end, there is an ongoing need to develop the expertise to deal with the industries' environmental legacies. Cape Bretoners are now developing the skill set necessary to provide remediation technologies and services—an expertise that can be exported around the world.

## Resource Sector

Traditional resource-based industries are also contributing to this new vision of the Cape Breton Island economy. The forestry continues to play a major role as entrepreneurs increasingly invest in new processing capacity and equipment, as well as new value-added products. The forests have always been a source of income for Cape Bretoners, and now that most of the wood is processed on the island, its value is increasing. A local entrepreneur, Forest Insights, has just established Atlantic Canada's first pre-finished hardwood flooring facility. Harvested from Cape Breton Island grows the floors of homes and businesses across Europe and North America.

The island's dynamic agricultural community also adds to products internationally. Even chocolate from Cape Breton Island's Classic Chocolates can be found in supermarket freezers across Canada and in the United States.

## Business-Friendly

Doing business on Cape Breton Island makes good sense. The dedicated, highly productive workforce, competitive business costs, state-of-the-art telecommunications

systems, strategic global location, entrepreneurial spirit and amazing quality of life are only some of the reasons.

Local business development agencies are here to showcase their resources and services. One thing is sure—setting up business in Cape Breton is an attractive opportunity. The island wants to share in building your success.

Cape Breton Island's strong tradition of resilience has enabled it to overcome adversity in the past. Today, that is manifest in its undying determination to create a new diversified economy. It is doing so by creating a business climate that embraces ingenuity and innovation as it faces the new frontier. The people of Cape Breton Island look to the future with optimism and confidence. Their enduring spirit, not unlike the mythical phoenix rising from the ashes of its former self, seems to say, "And then we rise again!"

**To Learn More,**  
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## Entertainment Notes



## Love—and hope—among the ruins

On the sunny Sept. 11 in New York, Lauren Manning was running late, unable to tear herself away from her 10-month-old son, Tyler. Her husband, Greg, was also lagging behind. Both worked at the World Trade Center—Lauren, 40, as a senior vice-president and partner at Cannon Financial in the north tower and Greg, 44, as the director of information sales and marketing for Euro Bankers in the south tower. Lauren was 15 minutes late when she rushed from her car into the building—just as the jet plowed into it. A fireball shot out from an elevator shaft, ripping through the lobby and pushing Lauren outside, enveloped in flames. Greg, who was still at home when the terrorist attack, finally found Lauren at a hospital almost two hours later. Nearly 85 per cent of her body was severely burned,

leaving her with a 15 per cent chance of survival. Before slipping into a coma, Lauren told her husband that she had decided to live—for him and for their son.

Eight days later, with Lauren still in a drug-induced stupor, Greg wrote an e-mail to friends and family to update them on Lauren's condition. As a token of faith, he ended the e-mail with "Love, Greg & Lauren." Over the next few months, he continued to write daily updates that rounded not only Lauren's progress but his own frustrations as well as brief moments of joy. These e-mails, eventually forwarded across the United States and even to American forces in Afghanistan, became the basis for his book, *Love, Greg & Lauren* (Bantam). It takes readers from Sept. 11 to exactly three months later when, against all odds, Lauren walked out of the burn unit. Greg

never intended to write a book. Instead, the e-mails were a sort of therapy for him to work through his emotions. "There was no escaping the impact on any level," says Greg, who was contacted about doing a book when his e-mails were forwarded to a publisher. "I affected both of our jobs, our neighborhood, all of our friends and our life with our son. I needed to talk to someone."

Lauren, who is currently at a medical rehabilitation centre, will be back home by the end of March. While she will acquire years of physical therapy and major plastic surgery, Lauren is determined to remain the symbol of hope she has become for the devastated Cannon Financial firm that lost 658 of its 1,000 WTC employees in the attacks. Says Greg: "I wanted the world to know Lauren's story. She has gone through an amazing amount and I just felt that people should know about not only the adversity but her courage."

## The Moon's many phases

Robert Legault has always been a tough guy to pin down. He is an actor, director or playwright? "I call myself a storyteller," says the internationally celebrated Quebecer, creative force behind such award-winning productions as *Penelope and Quixote*, *Photograph* and *Twelve Men*. There's something irresistible, too, about Legault's works, which are known for their dualing use of prose and imaginative staging—and the fact that they change with each production. "Theatre is to invent, not something written down," he explains. "What should be written

down is the bones of what you've done."

Legault's one-man show *The Far Side of the Moon*, at Ottawa's National Arts Centre this month (in French on March 21-23, 25, 29 and 30, in English March 26-28), has gone through numerous revisions. The play explores the absurdity of talking reality against the backdrop of the Soviet-US space race. First performed in Quebec City two years ago, it evolved while touring to San Francisco, New York and Berlin.



into something shorter and more focused. By the time it got to London last year, the work-week features an original score by Louis Andriessen.

was an unqualified success. It was the glowing landmark award for best play, and earned Legault a Critics' Circle Theatre Award for directing. So has this Moon gone through all its changes? With Legault, who hopes to take it to Vancouver later this year, you never know.

Julian Behrman

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## Man bites dog

Could it really be true? The release of the contents of *Good News for a Change* (Stoddart), by David Suzuki and Holly Drael, will surprise those who accuse environmentalists of slip-sliding positions. In fact, more activists are optimistic who believe that humans can and will change their ecologically catastrophic ways. Suzuki and Drael address hundreds of individuals and groups who have found specific solutions, and detect a groundswell of movements for change.

There are farmers who manage to raise better quality beef while protecting local wildlife and plants, foresters who turn a profit while preserving cougar habitat and new technologies that promise to reduce or even eliminate ozone. Whether it all adds up to what an environmentalist might call reasonable optimism is a matter for readers to decide.



### Best-Sellers

Fiction	copies last week
1. <i>ACQUITTED</i> by Michael Chabon	1
2. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	2
3. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	3
4. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	4
5. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	5
6. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	6
7. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	7
8. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	8
9. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	9
10. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	10

### Non-fiction

1. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	1
2. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	2
3. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	3
4. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	4
5. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	5
6. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	6
7. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	7
8. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	8
9. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	9
10. <i>THE GIVER</i> by Lois Lowry	10

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## Dateline: Westmount

Westmount is one of those loaded suburbs, like Tijuana or Lourdes, that compares a montage of preconceived notions and weary clichés—many of which, at least sometimes, turn out to be true.

Outside of Quebec, it is still known primarily as the city's original French-Canadian enclave—like Toronto's Rosedale or Vancouver's Shaughnessy—only with a twist. In the early 1960s, when Doug Fisher, the bilingual long-time politician and journalist, wanted to describe a certain kind of Canadian, he used the words "those fat piglets from Westmount."

At about the same time, Peter Gouws, in the magazine, wrote "Westmount, all manner rich, stuffy, usually Presbyterian, and always anti-French." Then, of course, there was René Lévesque's famous 1970 reference to "Westmount Rhinobears."

Locally, it is still arguably the last place in Quebec where people speak English first, ask questions later and don't apologize in between. It is still beautiful, chic and wealthy. It is still, in a town where the neighborhood you choose makes a statement about where you stand on the language issue, an Anglo address as an Anglo can have.

But there are big differences between now and yesterday, not least of which is that, since the start of this year, the City of Westmount is no more—in law, if not spirit. As of Jan. 1, a municipal merger bill pushed through by the *Pro Québecois* has had the effect, among other things, of reducing one of the country's most famous symbols to a demoted status as one of the many boroughs of the new Montreal megacity.

In many ways, that's simply the latest in a series of indignities that have lowered the Great Wall that always divided Westmount and the rest of Quebec. Most Westmount Anglos, for example, now can speak French. But still, they haven't become Québécois "enough in fact" in the eyes of the majority. Which means, at the official level, a sort of necessary co-dependence between the Anglo rights groups, like Alliance Québec, and the *Pro Québecois*, each of which finds off indignation reward the other.

On the street level, it has produced what may be the only palpable sense of oppression to afflict a group of well-off white people in North America. I arrived here last spring, after nine years in the United States, most of them spent immersed in watching over foreign news or wire services in Washington and



New York and at ABC News. After I'd dealt with ethnic conflicts measured in daily body counts, Westmount held the calm, disarming appeal of a well-manicured suburb. There was, at the time, an unspoken anti-racism campaign underway. But the campaign seemed hollowing by the story of its own message: after all, it's not easy to sound convincing in defence of a culturally distinct minority enclave after years of holding it at the label "culturally distinct minority."

I grew up in pre-integration rural West Quebec, where I went to French schools, spoke English at home and had friends in both camps. In the 1960s, Anglo culture was Kraft Dinner, and the French kids were the ones with money. So, to me, Westmount is Anglo Diner—a brilliantly over the-top peak of ostentatiousness up the hill and the muffled clacking of lawn bowling played by white-haired old men as dusk behind the sky-draped limestone city hall like a BG. Woodhouse estate.

It is probably the only place west of Florence that needs just of *Worms* as the hardware store checklist. It is not to match defiantly Anglo an unashamedly Anglophone, and undeniably wealthy. Its population is 17 per cent francophone and the average house costs \$510,000. That made it easy for PQ politicians like Lucie Huard to slag off the "Westmount anti-racism campaign" as a bid to preserve the "old, foul stench of colonialism," as she did last June, knowing that the lovely belling, the *Marmite* and the *Land Rover* double-parked on *Gatineau Avenue* would become immediately, reflexively, to mind.

Meanwhile, the No. 26 bus that goes east from Westmount along Shebrooke Street into downtown Montreal is interesting, rush hour is like a rolling waiting room for an oppressed minority *en masse* support group. There, you'll see the lawyers still kidding themselves for running down Toronto, the empty seat, back-to-work housewives plotting their next trip to see their grandchildren in Vancouver, the McGill and Concordia students feeling cool for being from such a place but wondering nonetheless how to get the hell out.

And everyone, especially the shell-shocked older ones, bracing themselves to debark into a world where change has come in the guise of a sense of caution rather, in other Westmount is elsewhere, still comes with the territory.

*Journalist Lisa Van Dusen, formerly of Ottawa, Washington and New York City, now lives in Westmount—her rules.*

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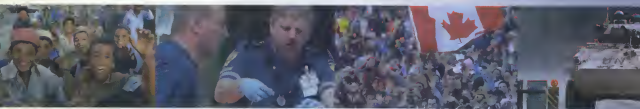


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